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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Leadership North Carolina Celebrates Graduation of Class XXII**

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*Raleigh, NC* – Fifty-five civic and community leaders from across the state have completed the Leadership North Carolina program and will celebrate their graduation during a ceremony in the North Carolina Capitol tomorrow.

Each year, through a rigorous selection process, LNC chooses a class of established and emerging leaders from across the state to participate in its acclaimed program. Leadership North Carolina's Class XXII comprised top leaders from the government, business, nonprofit, and education sectors. A full list of participants follows.

Leadership North Carolina's mission is to inform, develop, and engage committed leaders by broadening their understanding of and involvement in issues and opportunities facing North Carolina. The Leadership North Carolina Program cultivates a network of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences who share a deep commitment to their state. There are nearly 1000 graduates of the program whose continued ties to LNC and to one another provide them with rich opportunities for serving North Carolina.

Over the course of six two-and-a-half day sessions the members of LNC Class XXII learned about issues critical to the state through discussions with top officials and professionals, field trips, and experiential learning activities. LNC's sessions focused on five key areas: economic development, education, environment, government, and health and human services.

LNC sessions are held around the state, highlighting the social, geographic, and economic diversity of North Carolina. The members of Class XXII visited Boone, Raleigh, Rutherford County, Charlotte, Greenville, and High Point. Through LNC's program, participants gained new insight into North Carolina's strengths and challenges and developed their own priorities for ways they can improve and empower their communities and the state as a whole.

The application process for LNC Class XXIII (2015-2016) opens May 18 and will remain open through June 30. To find out more about Leadership North Carolina, please visit: [www.leadershipnc.org](http://www.leadershipnc.org).

#### **LNC Class XXII**

- **Barbara Aycock**, Town Administrator, Town of Fremont, *Fremont*
- **Jeff Baker**, Chief of Police, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, *Charlotte*
- **Fiona Baxter**, Senior Director, Outreach & Engagement/Associate Executive Director, IES, North Carolina State University, *Pine Knoll Shores*
- **Justin Belleme**, Founder, JB Media Group, *Asheville*

- **Buddy Bengel**, Managing Partner, Riverfront Sports, Bengel Food Group, Bengel Marketing, *Morehead City*
- **Brenda Berg**, President and Chief Executive Officer, BEST NC, *Cary*
- **Nick Black**, Managing Director, Victory Social Capital, *Durham*
- **Kim Blair**, Director, Community Relations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, *Durham*
- **Kendal Bowman**, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Policy - NC, Duke Energy, *Raleigh*
- **Nimasheena Burns**, Outreach Officer, North Carolina Department of Justice, *Raleigh*
- **Christie Burris**, Senior Director of Communications, North Carolina Retail Merchants Association, *Raleigh*
- **Leonor Clavijo**, Executive Director, North Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, *Raleigh*
- **Alison DeCinti**, Director of Development, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, *Pembroke*
- **Chris Dillon**, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Wake County, *Raleigh*
- **Sharon Edmundson**, Director, Fiscal Management Section, North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, *Raleigh*
- **Naras Eechambadi**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Quaero, *Charlotte*
- **Johan Enslin**, Director, EPIC, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, *Charlotte*
- **Malinda Faber**, Research Associate, The Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, North Carolina State University, *Raleigh*
- **Janet Farrell**, Firm Administrator, DMJ & Co., PLLC, *Greensboro*
- **Richard Fort**, Architect, Vice President, Clark Nexsen Architecture and Engineering, *Asheville*
- **Kim Gold**, Vice President of Academic and Student Services, Isothermal Community College, *Spindale*
- **Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi**, Director, Land Use and Environmental Services Agency, Mecklenburg County, *Charlotte*
- **Alvaro Gurdian**, Vice President, *La Noticia*, *Charlotte*
- **Jennifer Hall**, Associate, Troutman Sanders LLP, *Raleigh*
- **Robyn Hamilton**, Director of Corporate Relations, Novant Health, *Charlotte*
- **Misty Herget**, Director of Leadership Development, North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, *Raleigh*
- **Liz Jackson**, Director, Orthopaedic Service Line, Duke Raleigh Hospital, *Raleigh*
- **Rita Jerman**, Senior Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, Wake Technical Community College, *Raleigh*
- **Cedric Johnson**, Public Policy Analyst, NC Justice Center, *Raleigh*
- **Lisa Jones**, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts NC Coastal Pines, *Raleigh*
- **Pam Kelly**, Vice President, Corporate Tax, Martin Marietta Materials, Inc., *Raleigh*
- **Chris Kwiatkowski**, Senior Vice President - Head of Government Guaranteed Lending, Yadkin Bank, *Charlotte*
- **Stephanie Lanier**, Broker In Charge/Chief Executive Officer, The Lanier Property Group, Inc., *Wilmington*
- **Bud Lavery**, *Durham*
- **Marty Martinez**, Director, Technical Services, Cisco Systems, Inc., *Research Triangle Park*
- **Michael McAllister**, Director of Marketing & Public Information Officer, South Piedmont Community College, *Monroe*
- **Brian McGrath**, Director, Instructional Systems and Administration, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, *Durham*
- **Marty Moser**, Senior Vice President, Barnhill Contracting Company, *Raleigh*
- **John Moye**, Counsel, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, *Raleigh*
- **Cheri Pearson**, Senior Executive Administrator, World Overcomers Christian Church, *Durham*
- **Natalie Perkins**, Chief Executive Officer, Clean Design, *Raleigh*
- **Beth Pitonzo**, Vice President of Instruction, Guilford Technical Community College, *Jamestown*

- **Andrea Poole**, Associate Vice President for Finance and University Budgets, University of North Carolina General Administration, *Chapel Hill*
- **Lee Ragsdale**, Vice President, Asset Management, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, *Raleigh*
- **Vaughn Reynolds**, Senior Vice President, Middle Market Client Manager, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, *Charlotte*
- **Armistead Sapp**, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, SAS Institute, *Cary*
- **Elisabeth Stambaugh**, Chief Medical Officer, Cornerstone Healthcare, PA, *High Point*
- **Mary Stokas**, Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Chief of Staff, Premier, *Charlotte*
- **Kristy Teskey**, Executive Director, John M. Belk Endowment, *Charlotte*
- **Blake Thomas**, Deputy General Counsel, North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, *Raleigh*
- **Jessica Thomas**, Director, Sustainability Initiative, Poole College of Management, North Carolina State University, *Raleigh*
- **Ellen Vick**, Associate Executive Director, North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, *Chapel Hill*
- **Jason Wheatley**, Interactive Communications Specialist, Piedmont Natural Gas, *Charlotte*
- **Tamara Williams**, Dean, Merancas Campus, Central Piedmont Community College, *Charlotte*
- **Willy Yamamoto**, Associate Director, Design and Construction Services, North Carolina State University, *Raleigh*