



Leadership North Carolina Class 30

Environment Session

April 11-13, 2023

Speaker Directory

Ms. Kristina Valdiviezo

Director of Retail Operations
French Broad Chocolates
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Ms. Jael Skeffington

Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer
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Jael Skeffington, Co-Founder & CEO of French Broad Chocolates in Asheville, NC, believes in using business as a force for good.

Jael's passion for chocolate was born in 2003, when she and her co-founder, Dan, drove a veggie oil-powered school bus to the cacao-rich tropics of Costa Rica and opened a restaurant called Bread & Chocolate. While living there for two years, they visited cacao farms, got to know cacao farmers, and learned about theobroma cacao, the plant from which chocolate is made. Inspired to continue their path in chocolate, they moved to Asheville and founded French Broad Chocolate in 2006.

Guided by a mission to source with integrity and craft with intention, French Broad Chocolate builds meaningful relationships with sustainable farmers and producers and transforms fine cacao beans into craft chocolate in their experiential Chocolate Factory in Asheville, NC. Bean-to-bar to bonbon and

beyond means they create not only their artisan chocolate bars, but also a compendium of confections and desserts featuring their chocolate paired with local, fresh, and organic ingredients. Their creations can be enjoyed at French Broad Chocolate Lounge, their destination dessert restaurant; at their Chocolate Factory & Café; or through delivery, with the Asheville experience sent directly to you from frenchbroadchocolate.com. French Broad Chocolate is a Public Benefit Corporation and a Certified B Corp, a third party certification demonstrating a commitment to being people who use business as a force for good. Their chocolates have been recognized with many national and international awards.

Jael serves on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Coalition in Asheville/Buncombe County and is a founding Board Member and Vice President of Chow Chow, an Asheville Culinary Event, whose mission is to celebrate and enrich the unique foodways of the Southern Appalachian region.

Dr. Kimberly van Noort

Interim Chancellor
University of North Carolina at Asheville
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Dr. Kimberly van Noort is UNC Asheville's Interim Chancellor and brings over three decades of higher education experience to the role. She previously served as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer for the University of North Carolina System, which she joined in 2016. Prior to joining the UNC System, she was at the University of Texas at Arlington where she served in various roles including Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, Director of University College, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts, and tenured faculty member in the Department of Modern Languages.

Dr. van Noort received her bachelor's and master's degrees in French from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and earned a Ph.D. in French at Boston University. She currently serves on the boards of the North Carolina Arboretum, the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Coastal Studies Institute, and the Triangle Universities Center for Advanced Studies. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, cooking, and raising goats.

Dr. Amy Knisley

Professor of Environmental Policy and Law
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A specialist in environmental law's attempts to integrate both natural science and societal values, Dr. Knisley has a Ph.D. in Philosophy (Values and Social Policy emphasis) from University of Colorado and a Master of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. Prior to joining Warren Wilson, Dr. Knisley was a faculty member and department chair at Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire and

served as senior vice president at Unity College in Maine. Dr. Knisley's teaching and research blends environmental ethics, political theory, and the law. Dr. Knisley's academic work is complemented by practical experience as a small-scale organic farmer and as a founding board member for the Chemtronics Superfund Site Community Advisory Group. She is a western North Carolina native and currently lives in Asheville with her husband and daughter.

Ms. Jennifer Weiss

Co-Director
North Carolina Clean Energy Fund
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Jen Weiss is the founder and co-director of the North Carolina Clean Energy Fund, a non-profit green bank that utilizes public and private capital to catalyze investments in clean and efficient energy and transportation projects in the state with a focus on underserved communities. She was most recently the senior advisor for climate change policy at the North Carolina Department of Transportation, where she coordinated climate-related transportation activities across NCDOT including the development of the state's first Clean Transportation Plan.

Prior to this role, Jen worked at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University on the Climate and Energy team. In this role, she focused on the intersection of energy and environmental policy, primarily in the electricity, financial, and transportation sectors. In addition to her energy and transportation work, Jen has over 13 years of consumer and small business banking experience and holds a master of environmental management degree from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, a master of business administration from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California at San Diego.

Mr. Schumata Brown

LNC Class 27 Alumnus

Town Manager
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Schumata Brown is currently Town Manager for Maysville, NC. In this role, he organizes, manages, directs, and implements the goals and objectives of the Town Board of Commissioners. His responsibilities also include the day-to-day administration of a full range of municipal law enforcement; public works utilities, fiscal, and other systems; staffing the organization; and providing budgetary direction and guidance. He previously served seven years as Mayor Pro-Tem for Maysville before transitioning to the manager's role.

Before becoming the Town Manager in 2016, Schumata worked at Hatteras Yachts for 20 years in New Bern, NC. He is a graduate of the NC Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI XIV) and a UNC School of Government Fellow graduate. He received an honorable discharge from the Army National Guard after six years of service. Schumata is a recent graduate of Leadership NC Class 26 (best class ever) and received the Stanley Frank Class Award.

Schumata is a native of Maysville and resides there with his wife, Lateashe. They are the proud parents of three sons.

Mr. Brian Buzby

Executive Director
North Carolina Conservation Network
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As Executive Director, Brian directs the organization's overall work, including implementing the organization's vision, directing fundraising, building external partnerships, and government relations. Brian previously served as Chair of the Durham Planning Commission and the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission. He was also an American Marshall Memorial Fellow with the German Marshall Fund. In his free time, he enjoys running, playing music, and hiking with his family. Brian has been with NC Conservation Network since 1999.

Mr. Kaleb Rathbone

Assistant Commissioner, Western NC Agricultural Programs and Small Farms
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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Kaleb Rathbone serves as Assistant Commissioner for Western NC Agricultural Programs with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His areas of responsibility include the WNC Ag Center, WNC Farmers Market, Mountain State Fair, and the Small Farms Division. Prior to being appointed to his current role, Kaleb served as Director of the Research Stations Division with NCDA and NC State University and as Superintendent of the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville.

Kaleb grew up on a family farm in Western North Carolina raising burley tobacco, beef cattle, and strawberries, and he remains an active partner in the operation. Kaleb serves on the boards of AgSouth Farm Credit and Haywood Community College, as well serving with other community and civic organizations. Kaleb and his wife Monica have four sons: Mason, Grant, Reid, and Joe.

Mr. Brad Ives

Executive Director, Center for the Environment
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Brad Ives joined Catawba College's Center for the Environment in 2022 as Executive Director. Ives, an experienced environmental champion known for innovative leadership and integrity, oversees the Center's activities and talented staff.

Ives co-founded Credo ESG Solutions Inc., a company that provides advisory, management, reporting, and innovation services for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters for investment firms and operating companies. He previously was Chief Policy Officer at Strata Solar and served as Director of North Carolina's Task Force for Emergency Repurposing of Manufacturing in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

From 2015 to 2019, Ives was the Chief Sustainability Officer and Associate Vice Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). At UNC, he teamed with Google, Apple, and Walmart to improve state renewable energy laws while leading numerous operational and sustainability innovations. Prior to joining UNC, he was North Carolina's Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources. In that role, Ives drove new policy resulting in the state's first wind farm and became a respected environmental leader while directing the State Parks, Museum of Natural Sciences, Marine Fisheries, Aquariums, and Zoo.

Ives is a demonstrated leader with a track record of building and managing complex organizations in the renewable energy, financial, legal, state government, and university sectors. He has served on numerous industry, educational, and non-profit boards where he has provided leadership on environmental, social, and governance issues. He holds the Sustainability and Climate Risk Certificate from the Global Association of Risk Professionals, is a GRI Certified Sustainability Professional, and is the recipient of the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association's Individual Energy Leader Award. He currently serves on the Durham Advisory Board for M&F Bank (America's second-oldest minority-owned bank) and the Board of the Clemson University Institute for Parks.

Ives is a graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and received his Bachelor of Arts and Law degrees from the University of North Carolina where he was a Morehead-Cain Scholar. Ives and his wife, Debra, are the proud parents of a daughter, Emily, who is completing her MA at Kings College London, and a son, Lawton, who works in management consulting in Denver, CO.

Ms. Tiffany King

Regional Sustainability Director and Senior Construction Manager
Samet Corporation
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With 18 years of experience as a senior construction manager and sustainability specialist, Tiffany King has worked in the Midwest, New England, and the South, building projects of all scopes and sizes, including single family homes, commercial office buildings, high rise structures, and multi-family developments. She brings an eye for sustainability while leading project operations from the design phase through client turnover. She has a keen understanding of how construction operations impact our environment and works to minimize the waste generated from construction processes as well as proactively championing sustainability initiatives on the jobsite and on the business side.

In her current role as the Regional Sustainability Director for Samet's Triangle office, Tiffany is working to improve the impacts of construction and business operations by tracking sustainability metrics, developing policy, and working with internal and industry partners to grow a long-term, robust, and impactful sustainability program for the company.

Tiffany is a long-time active member of the US Green Building Council and is currently serving on the Market Leadership Advisory Board for the USGBC of the Carolinas.

Tiffany was recognized by the City of Raleigh's Environmental Advisory Board in 2022 with the Business Innovation for Environmental Stewardship Award.

Tiffany obtained her Master of Construction Management and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and is a licensed professional engineer, LEED AP, and Green Globes Professional.

Mr. Charlie Schwarze

Director - Sustainability
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As a director of sustainability with Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP), Charlie leads KDP's packaging sustainability goal development, strategy, and execution across KDP's wide ranging portfolio of over 125 owned, licensed, and partner brands. He also has responsibility for external sustainable packaging and recycling partnerships with organizations like The Recycling Partnership, the U.S. Plastics Pact, and WWF's Resource Plastics. Charlie also serves as a founding member and chairman of the board for The Circular Action Alliance, the first Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for printed paper and packaging in the United States.

Prior to KDP, Charlie led development activities with The Recycling Partnership, a non-profit focused on improving the U.S. recycling system. He also spent time with Unifi in North Carolina, directing recycling business operations and with Amcor, leading sustainability efforts for the Americas region. He is a retired Naval Aviator, teaches systems thinking as an adjunct professor at Wake Forest University, and currently lives outside of Charlottesville, VA.

Dr. Courtney Woods

Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
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Courtney Woods is an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. Dr. Woods serves as lead for the Master of Public Health (MPH) program's [Environmental Health Solutions](#) concentration and co-lead for the [Health Equity, Social Justice and Human Rights](#) concentration, which she helped develop.

For over a decade, Dr. Woods has applied participatory action research approaches to support communities experiencing environmental racism. As an engineering and toxicology trained scientist, she uses mixed methods to assess risk perception and hazard exposure for a range of environmental health issues, including landfills, petrochemical refineries, industrial animal agriculture facilities, and natural disasters. She leads the Environmental Justice Action Research Clinic. Similar to a law clinic, the EJ Clinic provides technical assistance for residents facing urgent environmental health threats.

Dr. Woods co-leads a course on environmental justice (ENVR 784) with the [NC Environmental Justice Network](#) (NCEJN), a well-established grassroots organization addressing environmental justice issues across the state. She also is a founding member of [Earthseed Land Collective](#), a BIPOC-led organization that applies cooperative principles for sharing access to land, redefining the human-natural environment relationship and working towards food sovereignty.

Mr. John F.A.V. "Jack" Cecil

President
Biltmore Farms
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Mr. Cecil has served as President and CEO of Biltmore Farms, LLC, since 1992. Established in 1897, Biltmore Farms has focused its efforts on community building through developing an extensive portfolio of real estate projects including a regional shopping mall, a mixed-use urban village, master planned communities, corporate offices, hotels, apartments, medical office buildings, and over 1,000 homes.

Mr. Cecil serves as a Trustee of The Duke Endowment; Chair of the Board of Directors, Dogwood Health Trust; Director, N.C. GlaxoSmithKline Foundation; Chair of the National Advisory Board of the Institute for Emerging Issues; Director, The Research Triangle Foundation of NC; Member, myFutureNC Commission; Director, Barron Collier Management, LLC; and Governor, Urban Land Institute Foundation.

Mr. Cecil received his M.I.M. from The American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) and his B.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill.

He has been happily married to Sarah Mettler Cecil since 1993, and they have four wonderful sons, Thomas, Hugh, John, and Owen.

Mr. Bill Rhyne

LNC Class 14 Alumnus

Senior Director of Operations Support
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Bill Rhyne is currently the Senior Director of Operations Support at Harris Teeter, where he has held various leadership roles over the last 25 years. Prior to Harris Teeter, Bill worked in the consulting, manufacturing, and distribution industries. In his current role, Bill is responsible for various teams supporting the Harris Teeter stores with services, supplies, sustainability initiatives, reclamation services, and labor management. He is also overseeing the company's home delivery efforts. He completed his undergraduate degree at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Master's at Georgia Tech, and completed The Executive Program (TEP) at the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia.

In addition to being a proud alum of Leadership North Carolina Class 14, Bill has served on numerous non-profit Boards of Directors. He is currently the President of the Matthews Free Medical Clinic, Chairman of the Fred Morganthall Foundation, and a Vice President of the Board for the Mecklenburg County Council BSA (proud Eagle Scout!). Bill has been married to Heidi for 33 years and they have 3 children—Garrett, Sarah, and Hannah—who are spread out through the Southeast in grad schools and first jobs.

Mr. John Gant

Director of Sustainability
Glen Raven, Inc.
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John is the Director of Sustainability at Glen Raven, the maker of Sunbrella Fabrics and other textile products. John works across the company to build awareness and identify strategies for new achievements in environmental and social responsibility. He has been with Glen Raven for 28 years,

working in manufacturing, factory construction, energy management, product development, and marketing. John earned a mechanical engineering degree from North Carolina State University in 1988 and an MBA from Duke University in 2004. John and his wife Sheri have two sons, Ben and Weston.

Mr. Brian Heslin

LNC Class 29 Alumnus

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Brian is a leader in the fields of law, energy, and personal service. He leverages his experience in the military, government, private practice, and corporate law to solve problems, provide strategic advice, and manage teams. Brian is half-Filipino/half-Irish. He served as an officer in the US Army on active duty and in the reserves for over eight years, and he represented the United States in courtrooms as a Department of Justice trial attorney. Brian practiced at the law firm Moore & Van Allen (MVA) and departed after several years as an equity partner. Three years ago he joined the Duke Energy corporate legal department, where he manages the Duke Energy federal legal regulatory team and the Piedmont Natural Gas legal regulatory team.

Brian and his family moved to Charlotte seventeen years ago. He and his wife, Alison, have three children - Dane (20), Brynn (18), and Tessa (13) - who all enjoyed growing up in North Carolina. Brian has provided consistent pro bono and community service, leading the MVA Public Service Committee for several years, while separately providing voluntary legal services to veterans and Bhutanese refugees and serving on many nonprofit boards, including Veterans Bridge Home, International House, Community Building Initiative, and Catherine's House. Brian is a life-long practitioner of martial arts and enjoys mountain hiking. Brian believes that leadership entails strong personal relationships and selfless service to mission and our community.

Ms. Jennifer Mundt

LNC Class 27 Alumna

Assistant Secretary for Clean Energy Economic Development
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In her role as Assistant Secretary, Jennifer is helping to lead North Carolina's efforts to secure economic development and workforce opportunities in the increasingly important clean energy sector. With nearly 17 years of service to the State, she is a key player in the development of the North Carolina's resources for offshore wind energy, working with colleagues across the Cooper Administration to advance offshore wind through policy, regulatory, and economic development work.

As part of this work, Jennifer serves as Governor Roy Cooper's named Point Person to the North Carolina Renewable Energy Task Forces of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Jennifer was instrumental in the development of Executive Order 218 – which established NC's first offshore wind development goals – and the development of the offshore wind SMART-POWER Memorandum of Understanding with Virginia and Maryland – which brings together the strengths of all three states to develop offshore wind in the region.

Prior to her work at Commerce, Jennifer served as Senior Policy Advisor in the NC Department of Environmental Quality working with then-DEQ Secretary, now EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Prior to her work at DEQ, she spent more than a decade as a nonpartisan Senior Legislative Analyst at the North Carolina General Assembly. Jennifer graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in Environmental Science and Political Science from Virginia Tech and earned a Master's of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Class 30 Environment Session Planning Committee

The following members of LNC Class 29 make up the planning committee for the Class 30 ENV session.

Dr. Manju Bhat *Forsyth*

Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education
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Dr. Manjunatha Bhat (Manju) currently serves as the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education (CASBE) at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). He also holds the title of Hanes Distinguished Professor of Humanities. Prior to joining WSSU, Manju worked as a research scientist at the Cleveland Clinic Division of Anesthesiology. He was born and raised in India, where he obtained his undergraduate education in veterinary medicine (DVM). His interest in post-graduate education led Manju to pursue a master's in veterinary science (M.V.Sc.) at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, where he developed an interest in basic biomedical research. He traveled to Canada to continue his graduate studies in Pharmacology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Manju got his doctoral degree in Physiology and post-doctoral research training at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.

As Dean of CASBE at WSSU, Manju oversees 17 academic departments and 9 research centers in Natural and Physical Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, and Education. His academic interests include teaching and learning technologies, broadening racial and ethnic diversity in education and research, and using data analytics tools to improve student learning outcomes and success. Manju's current research interests include investigating the role of calcium in basic pain mechanisms.

Manju is married to Leena, and they have two daughters (Himani and Mandira). His hobbies outside of his work include gardening, cooking, hiking, politics, and photography.

Mr. Pierre Bynum *Alamance*

Director Men's Programs
TROSA
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Pierre has been with TROSA for more than 21 years and is currently the Director of Men's Programs in Durham and at TROSA's satellite campus in Winston-Salem. Pierre finds working in the substance abuse/mental health field both challenging and rewarding. In his spare time, Pierre enjoys fishing and sports (Go 49ers and Golden State Warriors!). Pierre was born and raised in northern California but moved to North Carolina in 1997. He didn't know much about North Carolina (except they grew tobacco), and he didn't plan to stay more than two years. Pierre quickly realized the state was beautiful, the people were friendly, and the food was great. He decided to make North Carolina his permanent home.

Ms. Dean Drescher *Wake*

Account Executive
Larson Communications
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Dean Drescher is an account executive at Larson Communications, the only strategic communications firm in the nation specializing in public education reform. She was born and raised in Raleigh and attended North Carolina public schools K-12. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she majored in journalism and religious studies. While in college, Dean was a reporter for The Daily Tar Heel, UNC's student newspaper, and was elected senior class president.

After graduating, Dean spent four years in New Orleans teaching first grade as a Teach For America corps member. From there, she was the policy director at EdVoice, a nonprofit in Sacramento dedicated to increasing K-12 student achievement in California. She also served as the director of special projects for the most expensive Senate race in United States history. Most recently, she served as director of operations for EducationNC.

Dean received her master's degree in education policy from Harvard. She is a proud resident of southwest Raleigh and regular patron of the State Farmers Market. She is an avid kickball player (shortstop, occasionally catcher) looking to bring home a trophy this season. When in doubt, you can probably find Dean having a beer at Slim's in downtown Raleigh or hanging out in one of the city's amazing parks (did you know the 1968 Raleigh Capital Improvement Plan called Raleigh "the park with a city in it?"). She lives with her wife, Jessica, and their rescue pets, Willam (orange cat) and Cocoa (brown dog).

Mrs. Michelle Fortune *Polk*

Chief Executive Officer
St. Luke's Hospital
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Michelle Fortune was born and raised in Western NC and has been a Registered Nurse for more than 30 years. Currently, she serves as the CEO for a locally and independently owned critical access hospital in Polk County. Michelle's deep passion is to assure access to specialty healthcare in rural North Carolina, and she has launched rural Urology and Cardiology programs that are now reaching the underserved with life-saving testing and treatments. Michelle serves on several boards for the NC Healthcare Association and is a National Rural Health Fellow.

In addition to her nursing degree, Michelle holds an MBA with a focus in healthcare management and a Certificate in Lean Healthcare Operations. She has trained at Harvard Business School in the area of Disruptive Strategy and loves to focus on innovation in rural markets. Michelle is a Certified Perianesthesia Nurse and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

In her free time, Michelle serves as a healthcare columnist for the local newspaper. Because of her personal experience with life threatening food allergies, she is often involved in ensuring that backpacks for the sheriff's department return-to-school program include allergy safe treats or that meals packed for veterans by her church have top eight allergen free options. Michelle enjoys singing, playing piano, and hiking in the Linville Gorge with her husband and three dogs when she is not at work.

Dr. Shakira Henderson, Program Chair *Pitt*

Vice President Research Officer/Clinical Research Integration Officer/Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research

UNC Health

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Dr. Shakira Henderson wears several professional hats, including hospital-based nurse researcher, health educator, and certified neonatal nurse. Currently, she serves as the System Vice President, Research Officer for UNC Health, the Assistant Vice Chancellor Clinical Research for UNC Chapel Hill campus, and the Clinical Research Integration Officer for the UNC School of Medicine. She previously served as the founder and Senior Administrator of the Vidant Health Center for Research and Grants. She is a life-long learner and holds dual doctoral degrees, PhD and DNP, and master's degrees in public health, anatomical sciences, and advanced nursing practice with a sub-specialization in nursing education.

Dr. Henderson serves as an elected member and neonatal expert on the national board for the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses and has recently been elected as the 2022-2023 President. This year she was elected to the North Carolina Board of Nursing. She also serves as Co-Chair of the North Carolina Nurses Association Nurses on Board Council. She previously served on an international board for lactation and was a fellow, mentor, and faculty advisor in Sigma's Maternal Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy. She is a faculty advisor for the new Sigma Nurse Leadership Academy for Practice. Her expertise is in the innovative application of research and nursing practice to increase the generation of research from the bedside and expedite the translation of evidence into practice. She is passionate about equitable breastfeeding and lactation opportunities for the residents of North Carolina.

Dr. Henderson is interested in global health as she is originally from the tiny Caribbean Island of Dominica. Thus, one of her hobbies is traveling. And in her spare time, she enjoys sound sleep!

Mr. Brian Heslin *Mecklenburg*

Deputy General Counsel

Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas

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Brian is a leader in the fields of law, energy, and personal service. He leverages his experience in the military, government, private practice, and corporate law to solve problems, provide strategic advice, and manage teams. Brian is half-Filipino/half-Irish. He served as an officer in the US Army on active duty and in the reserves for over eight years, and he represented the United States in courtrooms as a Department of Justice trial attorney. Brian practiced at the law firm Moore & Van Allen (MVA) and departed after several years as an equity partner. Three years ago he joined the Duke Energy corporate legal department, where he manages the Duke Energy federal legal regulatory team and the Piedmont Natural Gas legal regulatory team.

Brian and his family moved to Charlotte seventeen years ago. He and his wife, Alison, have three children - Dane (20), Brynn (18), and Tessa (13) - who all enjoyed growing up in North Carolina. Brian has provided consistent pro bono and community service, leading the MVA Public Service Committee for several years, while separately providing voluntary legal services to veterans and Bhutanese refugees

and serving on many nonprofit boards, including Veterans Bridge Home, International House, Community Building Initiative, and Catherine's House. Brian is a life-long practitioner of martial arts and enjoys mountain hiking. Brian believes that leadership entails strong personal relationships and selfless service to mission and our community.

Ms. Danika Mills *Wake*

State Director, North Carolina and Arkansas

Unite Us

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Danika has held numerous leadership roles in population healthcare management, Medicaid redesign, and reproductive health, and served as the Executive Director of Coordinated Behavioral Care, Inc., and the CBC IPA. She has led innovative projects in healthcare and health information technologies as well as published work using EBTs like Critical Time Intervention and Seeking Safety.

Currently, she is the State Director with Unite Us, using human-centered technology to support and connect health and social care. She also supports some of the nation's most innovative companies in healthcare as a strategic consultant and is the board president of the North Carolina Art Therapy Institute.

She holds two master's degrees in social work and art therapy and is a licensed clinical social worker, board-certified art therapist, and certified case manager with certificates in Executive Leadership in Healthcare, Financial Success for Nonprofits, and Financial Management from Cornell University as well as a certificate in Executive Leadership in Not-for-Profits from New York University. She was named by NYN Media as a "40 under 40 Rising Star," honored with a Corporate Social Responsibility award for Health and Wellness by New York City and State, and won a Science to Service Award from the Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration.

She brings a passion for gender equality and supporting people in living their best lives. After 20+ years in New York City, she currently lives in the Raleigh area and is a mom to three sparkling redheads.

Mr. Jim Musilek *Wake*

Vice President, Innovation and Business Development

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

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Jim Musilek currently serves as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Project Management for the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) in Raleigh, NC. His responsibilities include working across the functional areas of the company to identify, coordinate, support, and evaluate strategic programs that support NCEMC's goals and objectives. Many of these efforts include working with North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives and their owner consumers.

Jim has over 28 years of utility experience working in engineering, planning, operations, rates, and portfolio management. During that time, he's had the opportunity to work on several innovative projects including community solar projects, microgrid/energy storage implementations, electric distribution system modernization efforts, advance demand response and other "edge of grid"

programs, integration of NCEMC's 1st generation distributed energy management system (DERMS) tool, and developing a fuel hedging program. Jim has presented on many of these projects and has served many utility industry committees.

Jim received his bachelor's degree from the California State University, Northridge, and received an MBA from Campbell University. He is married and lives in Cary, NC. He and his wife have two children. He enjoys cooking (mostly Italian and Mexican food), spending time with family, traveling, woodworking, running, and riding his bike.

Mrs. Rachel Page, Session Co-Chair *Durham*

Deputy Director

Go Global NC

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Rachel Page is the Deputy Director at Go Global NC and is responsible for providing leadership and oversight to the organization, including building statewide alliances, strategic planning, and internal operations.

Rachel serves as Go Global NC's primary liaison and Chief Operating Officer for the North Carolina Coalition for Global Competitiveness, a collaborative effort of government, education, business, and community leaders working to make North Carolina the most globally engaged state in the nation. Rachel is also a member of the US Global Leadership North Carolina Advisory Committee, which brings together more than 120 business, faith, nonprofit, and political leaders who understand how American global leadership matters for North Carolina.

Prior to joining Go Global NC, Rachel worked as a research analyst at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health with a focus on a range of local, statewide, and global initiatives for the state of North Carolina, including the NC Public Health Department, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and at one of the CDC's national prevention research centers. Previously, Rachel served as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Paraguay.

Rachel earned a Master of Public Health and a certificate in Global Public Health from UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in International Relations from American University. She has lived and studied in Cuba, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Paraguay.

Mr. John Tartt, Session Co-Chair *Mecklenburg*

Assistant Vice President

Atrium Health

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John joined Atrium Health, f.k.a. Carolinas HealthCare System, in April of 2004 and currently serves as the Assistant Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management. John earned a BS in Biology from Lees McRae College and a Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Administration from UNC Chapel Hill and performed Doctoral coursework in Health Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina.

John plays an active role in the community by serving as an Elder at one of the largest non-denominational churches in Charlotte, Vice Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water Advisory Council, Member of the Johnson C Smith Business Advisory Council, and ERM Fellow with the NC State University Poole College of Management. He also finds time to train for triathlons, marathons, and ultramarathons.

John is married to Sherri, who also works in the healthcare field. Both John and Sherri are native to North Carolina and enjoy learning about NC traditions and history. They have a college-age daughter who is studying meteorology and a Newfoundland puppy named Coast.