



## Leadership North Carolina

Class 31  
Education Session  
December 5 – 7, 2023  
Greensboro

[#LNC31]

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Leadership North Carolina  
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Class 31 Education Session  
December 5 – 7, 2023  
Greensboro

**Base Hotel**

Greensboro Marriott Downtown  
304 North Greene Street  
Greensboro, NC  
(336) 379-8000  
<http://bit.ly/GreensboroMarriott>

**Session Goals**

1. Take LNC participants on a journey through the education system in North Carolina.
2. Define the full continuum of education from early childhood education through the workforce.
3. Explore content through the lenses of background, access, funding, experience, and diverse perspectives.
4. Illustrate how education connects to government, health and human services, economic development, the environment, and inclusive leadership in North Carolina.

**Planning Committee**

**Dr. Sara Imhof, Program Chair**  
Senior Director  
North Carolina Biotechnology Center  
Wake

**Ed Hunt, Co-Chair** *Robeson*  
Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator  
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

**Dr. Rachel Smith, Co-Chair** *Columbus*  
Director of Strategic Initiatives  
The News Reporter

**Crystal Adams** *Alexander*  
Director, North Carolina Oral Health Collaborative  
Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation

**Erin Brewer** *Nash*  
Executive Director of Corporate and Community  
Outreach  
Barnhill Contracting Company

**Dr. Dana Chavis** *Robeson*  
Executive Director of CTE  
Hoke County Schools

**Dr. Christine Reed Davis** *Cabarrus*  
Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students  
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Dr. Moses Fox** *Mecklenburg*  
Executive Director, Campus Affairs  
Central Piedmont Community College

**Dr. LaVie Leasure** *Guilford*  
Associate Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social  
Sciences  
Winston-Salem State University

**Prudencio IV Martinez-Mengel** *Lenoir*  
Director of Latino Outreach and Recruitment  
Lenoir Community College

**Carmella Melton** *Durham*  
AVP, Head of Internal Communications & Employment  
Brand  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

Each planning committee for the Class 31 program year is made up of members from LNC Class 30.

## Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Optional Tour: International Civil Rights Center and Museum, 134 South Elm Street, Greensboro. Business casual attire.

Optional Reception: transform GSO, 111 West Lewis Street, Greensboro. Business casual attire.

- 1:00 – 4:00 pm      International Civil Rights Center and Museum Tour and Reflections (Optional)  
Advance RSVP Required. Masks required—provided on site.  
Tour sponsored by UnitedHealthcare
- William F. Harris II  
*Principal Scholar*  
*International Civil Rights Center and Museum*
- Dillon Tyler  
*Tour Coordinator*  
*International Civil Rights Center and Museum*
- 5:30 – 7:00 pm      Session Reception at transform GSO (Optional)  
Advance RSVP Required

## Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Breakfast and Meeting: NC A&T State University Student Center Ballroom, Second Floor, 1403 John W. Mitchell Drive, Greensboro. Business casual attire.

Parking Address: 102 Laurel Street, Greensboro. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels of parking deck. 5-10 minute walk to Student Center.

Dinner: Cadillac Service Garage, 304 East Market Street, Greensboro. Casual attire—school gear or school colors encouraged.

- 8:00 – 8:30 am      Breakfast (Optional)  
Advance RSVP Required
- 8:30 – 9:00 am      Setting the Stage
- Dr. Sara Imhof  
*Senior Director*  
*North Carolina Biotechnology Center*  
*LNC Class 30 Alumna and Class 31 Program Chair*
- Ed Hunt, Co-Chair  
*Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator*  
*The University of North Carolina at Pembroke*  
*LNC Class 30 Alumnus and EDU Session Co-Chair*
- Dr. Rachel Smith  
*Director of Strategic Initiatives*  
*The News Reporter*  
*LNC Class 30 Alumna and EDU Session Co-Chair*
- 9:00 – 9:25 am      North Carolina A&T State University Welcome  
and the Role of HBCUs
- Dr. Antoine J. Alston  
*Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences*  
*North Carolina A&T State University*
- 9:30 – 10:10 am      Who Are North Carolina's Students and Educators?
- Mebane Rash  
*Founding CEO and Editor-in-Chief*  
*EducationNC*
- 10:10 – 10:30 am      Morning Break  
Snack and beverages will be provided
- 10:30 – 11:30 am      Educating All of NC—Exploring Diverse Perspectives
- Beth Anderson  
*Executive Director*  
*The Hill Learning Center*

Gregory A. Richardson  
*Executive Director*  
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

Elaine Townsend Utin  
*Co-Founder, Executive Director*  
LatinxEd

Carmella Melton, Moderator  
*AVP, Head of Internal Communications & Employment Brand*  
*Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina*  
*LNC Class 30 Alumna and Session Planning Committee Member*

11:35 am – 12:25 pm	Early Childhood Education: Building the Foundation	Lisa Finaldi <i>Community Engagement Leader</i> <i>North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation</i>
12:25 – 12:35 pm	Table Discussions: Meet Your Student	Education Session Planning Committee
12:35 – 1:20 pm	Lunch	
1:20 – 1:40 pm	Class Business	LNC Team
1:40 – 2:20 pm	K-12 Education in NC: Opportunities and Options	Geoff Coltrane <i>Senior Education Advisor</i> <i>Office of NC Governor Roy Cooper</i>
2:20 – 2:40 pm	Afternoon Break	
2:40 – 3:40 pm	Voices of Educators	Abe Hege <i>Principal</i> <i>Fairview Elementary School, Guilford County Schools</i>
		Jhonatan Marin Mesa <i>1<sup>st</sup> Grade Dual Language (Spanish) Teacher</i> <i>Hunter Elementary, Guilford County Schools</i> <i>2023-24 Guilford County Schools' Teacher of the Year</i>
		Dr. Kelly Poquette <i>Music Educator</i> <i>Alamance Virtual School</i> <i>2021 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year</i>
		Jennie Bryan, Moderator <i>CTE Teacher: Teacher Scholar Academy</i> <i>The Center of Applied Sciences and Technology, Brunswick County Schools</i> <i>2021 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Southeast Region Teacher of the Year</i>
3:40 – 3:50 pm	Table Discussions: A Student's Journey—K-8	Education Session Planning Committee
3:50 – 4:00 pm	LNC Wrap-Up	
6:30 pm	Class Dinner <a href="#">Wear your school gear or school colors!</a>	Cadillac Service Garage

## Thursday, December 7, 2023

Breakfast and Meeting: Bennett College Global Learning Center, 521 Gorrell Street, Greensboro. Business casual attire.

8:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast (Optional) Advance RSVP Required	
8:30 – 8:50 am	Morning Reflections	Dr. Sara Imhof Senior Director North Carolina Biotechnology Center LNC Class 30 Alumna and Class 31 Program Chair
8:50 – 9:45 am	Voices of Students	Carter Adams 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Alexander Central High School Career and College Promise (CCP) Program - College Transfer Pathway  Nate Dahlstrom 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Alexander Central High School AP Academy  Sarahy Reynosa-Lanza 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Central Piedmont Early College  Nolan T. Totten 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Greensboro College Middle College  Dr. Susan Gann-Carroll, Moderator Executive Director, College and Career Pathways Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
9:45 – 9:55 am	Table Discussions: A Student's Journey—High School	Education Session Planning Committee
9:55 – 10:15 am	Morning Break Snack and beverages will be provided	
10:15 – 11:15 am	Higher Education in NC	Dr. Jeff Cox President North Carolina Community College System  Dr. David J. English Acting Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer The University of North Carolina System LNC Class 21 Alumnus  Dr. A. Hope Williams President North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
11:20 am – 12:10 pm	Educating Tomorrow's Workforce	Cecilia Holden President and Chief Executive Officer myFutureNC LNC Class 23 Alumna  Dr. John Paul Black SVP, Student Services and Workforce Development Lenoir Community College

Prudencio IV Martinez-Mengel, Moderator  
*Director of Latino Outreach and Recruitment*  
*Lenoir Community College*  
*LNC Class 30 Alumnus and Session Planning Committee Member*

12:10 – 12:20 pm	Table Discussions: A Student’s Journey— Workforce and Higher Education	Education Session Planning Committee
12:20 – 1:05 pm	Lunch	
1:05 – 1:25 pm	Table Discussions: Reflections and Report Out	Education Session Planning Committee
1:25 – 2:20 pm	Leadership Profile	Dr. Dudley Flood <i>Retired School Administrator</i>  Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith <i>Senior Director</i> <i>The Dudley Flood Center for Educational Equity and Opportunity</i>
2:20 – 2:30 pm	Wrap-Up and Adjourn	LNC Team