



Leadership North Carolina Class 31

Environment Session

April 9 – 11, 2024

Speaker Directory

The Honorable Esther E. Manheimer

Mayor

Asheville, NC

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Asheville, NC 28802

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Esther Manheimer was first elected to the Asheville City Council in 2009 and was elected Vice-Mayor by her peers in 2011. She was first elected Mayor in 2013 and re-elected in 2017 and 2022.

A graduate of Asheville High School, she earned her Juris Doctor and Masters of Public Administration from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She earned her BA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a partner in the Van Winkle Law Firm in Asheville, where she specializes in land and commercial litigation.

As mayor, Esther has focused her attention on achieving greater equity for all residents of Asheville. Esther received a Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Community Service from the MLK Association, and she is a past chair of the North Carolina Metro Mayors Coalition, an organization representing North Carolina's largest cities.

She is married to Mark Harris, a social studies teacher at Enka High School who coaches Enka's award-winning wrestling team. They are the parents of three sons (ages 22, 19, 16) and a rescue dog named Sochi.

The Honorable Bobbie D. Jones

Mayor

Princeville, NC

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Bobbie Jones is currently serving his third term as mayor of Princeville. A retired educator of 26 years, he is also the owner of Main Street Fish Market in Tarboro. Mayor Jones served 5 ½ years on active duty in the Marine Corps, spending 2.5 years in payroll, 10 months in Istanbul as a Marine Security Guard, and 20 months in Santo Domingo in the same capacity. He received his AAS in business administration from Hardbarger Jr. College, his BS in business administration from NC Wesleyan College, his MBA from Howard University, and his MSA from North Carolina State University.

Ms. Mary Alice Holley

Associate Director and Community Innovations Officer

Conservation Trust for North Carolina

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Mary Alice has been with Conservation Trust for North Carolina since 2016 and currently serves as Associate Director and Community Innovations Officer. In her current role, she works with CTNC's staff, board, and partners to ensure the organization advances its mission to build resilient, just communities for all North Carolinians.

She has built on a long career in nonprofit communications and public relations. She has been at the forefront in helping change the conversation about climate change from oppositional to encouraging a community effort. Prior to joining the organization, she put her B.A. in mass communications and rhetorical writing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to work as she supported conservation organizations throughout the state in building smart communication strategies that better connect supporters to their missions.

During her career, she's worked on a variety of climate change communications campaigns including the Audubon North Carolina Birds and Climate pilot program and served as the Z. Smith Reynolds Conservation and Climate grant program lead on behalf of North Carolina land trusts. Most recently, she developed a climate communication tool kit in partnership with Land Trust Alliance to provide Southeastern United States land trusts with a guide to engaging their supporters on climate change issues locally and regionally.

When not working to protect the planet, she's hard at work making her own land more resilient by building rain gardens, pollinator habitats, and a vegetable garden on her 1-acre homestead in Orange County, NC. She also finds time to manage a flock of chickens, 2 dogs, honeybees, and an ever-expanding system of raised garden beds.

Ms. Cassie Gavin

Director of Policy
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Cassie Gavin, Director of Policy at NCSEA, helps to coordinate the strategic direction of NCSEA's staff, lobbyists, and external stakeholders to implement policy strategies that advance an affordable and equitable clean energy future in NC. Cassie works with the team to set state policy goals for implementation at the NC General Assembly, the NC Utilities Commission, and the executive branch.

Cassie attended UNC-Chapel Hill for undergraduate and law school degrees, then worked in land conservation and environmental advocacy. She serves on the Yates Mill Associates board and enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, and traveling.

Mr. Leland Snook

Managing Director, Pricing Solutions
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Leland Snook is Duke Energy's Managing Director, Pricing Solutions. Mr. Snook's areas of expertise include development and analysis of electric utility revenue requirements, modeling of cost of service, rate design, embedded and marginal cost analysis, and formulation of utility service policies. Mr. Snook has provided expert testimony on commercial and residential rate design, large customer contracts, cost recovery mechanisms, and cost of service studies. Mr. Snook holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University and is a registered professional electrical engineer in the state of Arizona. Prior to joining Duke Energy Mr. Snook was the Director of Rates & Rate Strategy at Arizona Public Service Company.

Mr. Ed Hunt

LNC Class 30 Alumnus

Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
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Ed Hunt is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of NC and has served many positions across the State of NC. Ed moved back to his home community in 2004 to support local educational resources and support the family farm business. Ed is the Kate B. Reynolds Coordinator at the Thomas College of Business and Economics, Thomas Entrepreneurship Hub, at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He focuses

on grant development programs, business development, and educational opportunities. He received his Master of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Biology from the NC Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, NC. Ed has over 15 years of academic experience with more than 30 years of agriculture and community development planning. His research interests are agriculture, food security, and rural community development.

Ed enjoys time on the farm improving infrastructure, forestry projects, and sharing knowledge with other farmers.

Ms. Elizabeth Freeman Lambar

Director, NC Farmworker Health Program, Office of Rural Health
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Elizabeth Freeman Lambar, MSW, MPH, is currently the director of the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program (NCFHP) at the Office of Rural Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services, where she has worked since 2001. Elizabeth was previously employed working with farmworkers as a bilingual health outreach worker in North Carolina, New Jersey, and Florida. Prior to her work in farmworker health, she worked with Central American refugees in Tucson, AZ, and at a Catholic Worker House for families experiencing homelessness in San Antonio, TX, and volunteered in Sonora, Mexico. Elizabeth is fluent in Spanish. She received her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Social Relations from Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and received her MSW and MPH from UNC-Chapel Hill. She enjoys all things active and outdoors with her family and friends.

The Honorable Zeb Smathers

Mayor
Canton, NC
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Mayor Zeb Smathers was first elected as the Mayor of Canton in 2017. He has assumed a regional leadership role on the issue of flooding following the devastating flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Fred. He has also become a fixture on local and national media programs for leadership concerning the sudden closing of Evergreen Packaging, Haywood County's manufacturing hub and source of 1,100 jobs, in 2023.

Mayor Smathers and his team are committed to a comprehensive, bipartisan vision that allows Canton to bring about a future of new ideas and possibilities without losing what made the town special . . . her people and history as a "Milltown."

Mr. Jim Renfro

Air Resource Specialist
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
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Jim Renfro is the Supervisory Physical Scientist and Air Resource Specialist for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He started working for the Smokies in 1984 while working on his Master's degree, and he is currently responsible for managing the Park's air quality program—one of the most comprehensive air monitoring and research programs in the National Park Service. He earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, conducting his research in the Smokies. Jim's current duties at the Smokies include coordinating air resources management operations and monitoring activities at 7 research stations. Jim has over 39 years of experience in the areas of monitoring and research, public education and outreach projects, long-lasting partnerships, and air regulatory and policy issues related to the Clean Air Act and protection of Class I Areas under the Act and the effects of air pollution on the natural resources of the Park, specifically ozone, acid deposition, regional haze, particulate matter, mercury, and climate. Jim also helps coordinate night sky/light pollution activities as well as soundscape/noise pollution issues. Jim lives in Gatlinburg, TN, with his wife Jeanne (an elementary school special education teacher at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School in Gatlinburg). They have three adult children (Joey, Jaynie, and Jake) and two great dogs (Sage and Cedar).

The Honorable Julie Mayfield

Senator, District 49, North Carolina General Assembly
Senior Policy Advisor, MountainTrue
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Julie Mayfield was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 2020, representing District 49. Before that, she served five years on Asheville's City Council where she led the council's work on transportation, the environment, clean energy, affordable housing, and land use. She is also Senior Policy Advisor at MountainTrue, a regional environmental advocacy organization, and served as executive director and co-director from 2008-2022. She has served on and/or chaired numerous boards, including Asheville's Multi-Modal Commission and Transit Committee, the Mountain Resources Commission, the WNC Chapter of the ACLU, Working Wheels, the Environmental Quality Institute, and the North Carolina Conservation Network.

Prior to moving to Asheville and MountainTrue in 2008, she was the Vice President and General Counsel for the Georgia Conservancy, directed the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law, and practiced environmental law at Kilpatrick Stockton. She is a graduate of Leadership Asheville, Leadership Atlanta, and the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. She is a graduate of Davidson College and Emory University School of Law.

Class 31 Environment Session Planning Committee

The following members of LNC Class 30 make up the planning committee for the Class 31 Environment session.

Ms. Quynh Bowman *Mecklenburg*

Director - Rates & Regulatory

Duke Energy

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Quynh is a Director—Rates and Regulatory Strategy for Duke Energy, which means she crunches the numbers to determine the rates charged to utility customers through the rate case process and provides guidance on the regulatory rules that govern utility operations. She graduated from NC State University with a master's degree in Accounting and is a licensed CPA in the state of North Carolina.

She has two young boys (ages 5 and 6) that keep her busy. In her spare time, she loves food and traveling. Her dream job is a food critic. She cares deeply about education equity for everyone.

Dr. Lonnie Cockerham *Guilford*

Owner/Operator

Loco for Coco Gourmet Confections

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Dr. Lonnie Cockerham has worked in the corporate, retail, nonprofit, education, and government sectors. He has started and operated three small businesses and is the owner of a regional favorite: Loco for Coco Gourmet Confections, as well as an affiliated startup: Baobab Chocolate Factory.

Lonnie Cockerham has a long-standing history of working and volunteering in community-focused organizations, and he is actively seeking ways to bring his knowledge and talent to support high-quality teaching, learning, and entrepreneurship in the local community.

Mr. Tim Dodge *Durham*

Regulatory Counsel

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

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Tim joined North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives as regulatory counsel in March 2021, after ten years on the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission working in the utility and regulatory space. Prior to that, Tim served on legislative staff at the General Assembly for the better part of a decade, primarily focusing on energy, environment, and agricultural issues.

Tim grew up in rural Oregon but has lived more than half his life in North Carolina and is passionate about helping people across the State have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy. Tim earned his undergraduate and master's degrees from North Carolina State University (B.S. in Natural Resource Policy, Master of Public Administration) and attended law school at UNC School of Law, but he married a Duke grad (Julie) and now lives in Durham, so you're more likely to see him at a Duke or Bulls game!

When not working on energy issues, Tim spends lots of time pacing the sidelines at lacrosse and baseball games for his sons Lucas (15) and Grayson (11) and participating in Scouting events outdoors. He also enjoys cooking with his family, playing disc golf, and getting out to hike, run, or bike on the many fantastic trails across the Southeast.

Mr. Jason Flynn *Wake*

Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Martin Marietta

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Jason serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Martin Marietta, a leading supplier of building materials headquartered in Raleigh, NC. He joined the company in 2020 and most recently held the position of Vice President of Strategic Finance, Procurement, and Supply Chain. Prior to his tenure at Martin Marietta, Jason held leadership roles across various domains, including operations, information technology, finance, and commercial functions, at companies such as Kennametal, Johnson & Johnson, and General Electric. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and an MBA from the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Sara Imhof *Wake*

Vice President, Focused Initiatives Team

North Carolina Biotechnology Center

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Sara is an interdisciplinary and collaborative leader; a catalyst and opportunity creator; a strategic organizer; an impactful messenger and facilitator; and a health and life sciences policy advocate. Professionally, Sara serves as Vice President of the Focused Initiatives Team (FIT) for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Her primary responsibilities include conducting Federal Affairs Outreach and Engagement, leading interdisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations, and leading the North Carolina Precision Health Collaborative (NCPHC).

Critical recent Federal Affairs efforts include successfully leading a multistakeholder Coalition to receive \$25M federal dollars under the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge. Sara also secured the advancement by both Senators Burr and Tillis of a Directed Congressional Spending request for NCBiotech's Military Outreach & Veterans Engagement (MOVE) program. Finally, Sara is facilitating a multistakeholder effort to house the newly created federal Advance Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) in North Carolina. With the NC Precision Health Collaborative, Sara champions a growing statewide precision health ecosystem that delivers leading technology innovation and proven thought-leadership in the field, across North Carolina and the U.S.

Sara formerly served as Director of Education and Grassroots Advocacy for The Concord Coalition, Senior Analyst, Health Care, at the Government Accountability Office, Executive Director of the Iowa Counties Public Health Association, and Assistant to the Director for the Center for Macular Degeneration at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Sara earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, a Master of Arts degree in Health Promotion, and a Doctorate in Health Management and Policy, at the University of Iowa. She is a graduate of Leadership North Carolina Class 30, program chair for Leadership North Carolina Class 31, and a member of the Leadership North Carolina Board of Directors.

Mrs. Allison Owen Wake

Deputy Director, Office of Rural Health
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
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Allison began her tenure with the North Carolina Office of Rural Health (Office) in April 2005 as a contract specialist. Since joining the Office, she has led and participated in innovative projects to ensure better service delivery to rural and under-resourced communities. Currently, she engages in the strategic decision-making for the Office while managing a \$40 million average annual budget. She has responsibility for 27 employees and leads four key programs: Rural Health Information Technology, Analytics and Innovation, Rural Health Operations, and Business and Contract Management.

Throughout her career in public service, she has been awarded the 2022 Governor's Awards for Excellence for Outstanding Government Service, 2019 Governor's Awards for Excellence Nominee, 2019 DHHS Secretary's Award for Teamwork, 2018 DHHS Secretary's Award for Transparency, and 2016 Office of Rural Health Employee of the Year. Prior to joining the Office, Allison worked as a budget analyst in Fairfax County, VA, and as a high school English instructor in Cary, NC.

Allison earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia Southern University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Growing up in rural eastern North Carolina gave Allison a love of open spaces (and fear of spiders). Trails, beaches, roadside produce stands, and small towns are some of her favorite places to visit.

Ms. Kelly Perry Wake

Chief Legal Officer
LabVantage Solutions, Inc.
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Kelly has a piece of art that says, "She's a Dreamer, a Thinker, a Doer. She sees possibility and opportunity everywhere." It sums up how Kelly sees the world – she looks at any situation and thinks, how could we make this better? She's always dreaming, scheming, and planning her next adventure.

Kelly is a graduate of Wake Forest and Duke Law. She currently serves as the Chief Legal Officer at LabVantage Solutions, Inc. She is married to another lawyer – Matt Leerberg of Fox Rothschild. They have three kids Gabe (15), Mirella (14) and Quincy (11). The family volunteers regularly with the NC Food Bank and other hunger organizations. They love to travel and are proud Spanglish speakers.

Kelly volunteers through The Open Table to engage with young adults who have aged out of foster care. She spends her free time on a stand-up paddleboard at the beach in Pine Knoll Shores and in the Cary Arts Center pottery studio, where she creates wheel-thrown pottery and raku fired pieces.

Mrs. Candice Roth *Mecklenburg*

Executive Director of Ambulatory Services, Oncology & Infusion
MUSC Health
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Candice Roth is Executive Director of Ambulatory Services, Oncology, and Infusion at MUSC Health in Charleston, SC. She began her career 20+ years ago as a nurse in critical care and quickly found her niche in Oncology. Her passion for nursing has only increased through the years as she has grown into a nurse administrator, leader, and mentor.

Candice has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Avila University and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. She is Past-President of the Greater Charlotte Area Oncology Nursing Society and an active member of many professional organizations, highlighting a few related to her nursing leadership career: American Organization of Nurse Executives, American College of Healthcare Executives, American Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, and American Organization of Nursing Leadership.

Candice lives in Huntersville, NC, with her husband, Ché, and two children, Cash (14) and Cayden (13), along with an energetic 6-year-old Husky, Wrigley, and 3-year-old German Shephard, Mac. When not working, she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending quality time with her family in Tybee Island.

Ms. Cynthia Satterfield *Durham*

Executive Director
Conservation Trust for North Carolina
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A native of North Carolina, Cynthia has always been passionate about the relationship between people and place.

Much of Cynthia's professional career has been spent building organizational capacity and helping advance public policies to protect our state's farms, forests, water, and wildlife; its public lands and scenic vistas. Her path, which includes time as a field archaeologist and architectural historian, has taken her across North Carolina. She is also a proud volunteer, having served on numerous historic preservation commissions and planning boards.

Cynthia loves to take her 80-pound lion hound Phoebe for walks on the banks of the Eno, the river where she grew up. She is always looking forward to the next swim in the river, chance to go body surfing on the Outer Banks, or big project at home.

With more than 20 years working and volunteering for nonprofits in the historic preservation and conservation sectors, Cynthia is a servant leader who currently advocates for the lasting protection of our environment as executive director at the Conservation Trust for North Carolina.

Ms. Malenia Swinton, Session Co-Chair *Durham*

Capacity Consultant, Youth Co-Conspirator
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My name is Malenia(mah-LEE-nuh) Swinton, I'm a native of the Lowcountry, South Carolina; working with youth is my calling; and I have almost a decade of concurrent project management experience across many

areas including: strategic planning, K-12 in-school and out-of-school-time program design/delivery/evaluation, partnership development, communications and marketing, and training design and implementation.

My niche is youth development, advocacy, education, and leadership programming. I served as executive director of Communities In Schools of Durham at 26 years of age and quickly became burnt out due to my lack of experience and the lack of support. That experience pushed me back toward my true calling of working directly with youth, and today, I get to work alongside young people on things that matter most to them and serve as a mentor and coach. I help organizations design impactful youth programs, train professionals in effective youth engagement, and insist on the inclusion of youth voices in spaces they have not been invited to. I do that through my positions as board chair of Youth Ambassadors of Service; VP of Strategy & Governance of my alma mater's Black Alumni Council; and as an independent Capacity Consultant providing results-oriented services to nonprofits, schools, governments, and businesses on the east coast. I earned a degree in integrated marketing communications at Winthrop University and later earned professional certificates in Nonprofit Management and Executive Leadership from Duke University. I am also a veteran of the US Army National Guard. I box for fitness, and I LOVE Scrabble, media, cooking (and eating), and thinking.

Mr. Jason Walls, Session Co-Chair *Buncombe*

Director, North Carolina Infrastructure Engagement

Duke Energy

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Jason leads Duke Energy's government and community relations team in Western North Carolina. He works with local government, community, business, and environmental leaders on operational investments, regional issues, and community-based initiatives in the Asheville region. He started his career with Duke Energy in 2002 building relationships with advocacy organizations along the Catawba River in the Carolinas and the Keowee-Toxaway area in South Carolina. He grew up in southwestern Virginia (Marion) and graduated from Emory & Henry College with degrees in Political Science and Environmental Studies. He completed a post-graduate degree in Organizational Communications at Queens University in Charlotte.

Outside of work, Jason is passionate about youth leadership development and empowerment. He is an active adult leader in Scouts BSA, helping scouts understand themselves and engage in the big world around them. Jason is also a self-proclaimed "band dad." He volunteers his time to support students so they can continue the award-winning traditions of the TC Roberson marching band. He loves exploring the western North Carolina and northeastern Tennessee mountains with his wife (Monica) of 22 years, two sons Ethan (17) and Nick (14), and his trusty companion Oscar the dog.

Jason serves on the Board of Trustees at A-B Tech Community College and on the Board of Directors for the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Asheville-Buncombe Economic Development Coalition, Buncombe County Schools Foundation, United Way of Asheville-Buncombe, and the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Deb Wojcik *Orange*

Executive Director

Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster

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Deb Wojcik first moved to North Carolina in the early 1990s and, despite her loyalty to the school down the street, made Chapel Hill home about eight years ago. Over the past 20 years, Deb has worked across sectors on

program leadership and development, stakeholder engagement and network building, social science research, career and professional development, and environmental education and communication. Deb started her career with technology companies, found her passion as an educator at the North Carolina Coastal Federation and North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve, and spent many years leading programs in higher education at Duke University, Stanford University, and the University of Florida. About a year ago, Deb shifted back from academia to the nonprofit sector as Executive Director of the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster.

Deb is a trained social science researcher focused on stakeholder engagement and decision making, first focused on water and wildlife resources in the Okavango Delta of Botswana as part of her doctoral work and then as a Stanford University post-doctoral scholar to understand how a broad set of organizations worked together to support environmental learning. Deb holds a PhD from the University of Florida and Master of Environmental Management, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Bachelor of Science degrees from Duke University.

Deb is actively involved in local STEM education initiatives, and she is passionate about conserving and enjoying nature with her family. Deb is always looking for new stand-up paddleboarding partners and can also often be found kayaking, hiking, camping, swimming, and running.