



Leadership North Carolina
Class 32
Duke Energy Economic Development Session

February 4-6, 2025
Wilmington

[#LNC32]

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Leadership North Carolina
Class 32 Duke Energy Economic Development Session
February 4-6, 2025
Wilmington

Base Hotel

Courtyard Wilmington Downtown/Historic District
229 North 2nd Street
Wilmington
(910) 632-2900
[Courtyard Wilmington](#)

Session Goals

1. Provide foundational information about what economic development is and why it is important.
2. Demonstrate practical application of economic development activity in NC.
3. Explore the significance of the 1898 Wilmington coup and its long-term impact on North Carolina's racial and political landscape.
4. Highlight the importance of underrepresented groups related to economic development in North Carolina.
5. Explore how economic development connects to government, education, inclusive leadership, health and human services, and the environment.

Planning Committee

Steven Martin, Program Chair
President & CEO
Constellation Quality Health
Wake

Dr. Deb Thomas, Co-Chair *Mecklenburg*
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Pat Eglinton *Wake*
SVP, Senior Director, Operational Risk
First Citizens Bank

Greg McNamara, Co-Chair *Wake*
Business Development Manager | Senior Associate
LS3P Associates LTD.

Shannon McSwiney *Wake*
Director, Marketing & Communications
Delta Dental of North Carolina

Kristie Aldridge *Wake*
Vice President, Strategic Communications & Marketing
North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives

Kevin Price *Chatham*
President & CEO
National Institute of Minority Economic Development

Vivian Bolanos *Henderson*
VP Business Banker II
First Citizens Bank

Ciara Rogers *Wake*
Partner / Lawyer
Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey, PLLC

Trey Cash *Greene*
Economic Development Director
Greene and Lenoir County Governments

Kim Shaw *Durham*
Executive Director
The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center

Jody Donaldson *Wake*
Chief Marketing & Communications Officer
North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Each planning committee for the Class 32 program year is made up of members from LNC Class 31.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Bonus Optional Tour: Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th Street, Wilmington

Optional Tour: Port of Wilmington, 2202 Burnett Boulevard, Wilmington. Advance RSVP, driver's license, and closed-toe shoes required, pants recommended.

Optional Reception: Discovery Hall, The University of North Carolina at Wilmington Library, 520 Kenan Hall Drive, Wilmington.

12:30 – 1:15 pm	Tour of Cameron Art Museum (Bonus Optional Activity) Advance RSVP required. Business casual attire. Grab lunch before the tour – feel free to check out the museum café starting at 11 am!	Heather Wilson <i>Executive Director</i> Cameron Art Museum
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Tour of the Port of Wilmington (Optional) Advance RSVP and driver's license required. Please arrive by 1:45 pm. Business casual attire, no heels, closed-toe shoes required, pants recommended.	Brian Clark <i>Executive Director</i> North Carolina Ports Doug Vogt <i>Chief Operating Officer</i> North Carolina Ports Jonathan Graham <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> North Carolina Ports Laura Blair <i>Vice President of Administration and External Affairs</i> North Carolina Ports LNC Class 19 Alumna
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Session Reception at UNC Wilmington (Optional) Reception sponsored by UNC Wilmington. Advance RSVP required	

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Breakfast and Session: Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus, Union Station Conference Center, Daniels Hall, 5th Floor, 502 North Front Street, Wilmington.

Dinner: Front Street Brewery, 9 North Front Street, the Beam Room, Top Floor.

8:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast (Optional) Advance RSVP Required	
8:00 – 8:30 am	William Garrett Fund Committee Meeting	
8:30 – 9:00 am	Setting the Stage	Steven Martin <i>President & CEO</i> Constellation Quality Health LNC Class 31 Alumnus and Class 32 Program Chair Dr. Deb Thomas <i>Associate Vice Chancellor for Research</i> The University of North Carolina at Charlotte LNC Class 31 Alumna and ECD Session Co-Chair Greg McNamara <i>Business Development Manager Senior Associate</i> LS3P Associates LTD. LNC Class 31 Alumnus and ECD Session Co-Chair
9:00 – 10:00 am	Economic Development 101	Dan Gerlach <i>Owner</i> Dan Gerlach LLC

10:00 – 10:20 am	Morning Break Snack and beverages will be provided	
10:20 – 11:40 am	Landscape of Economic Development: Economic Development in Action	Christopher Chung <i>Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina</i>
		Dr. Gary Lanier <i>Director</i> <i>Columbus County Economic Development Commission & Columbus County Planning</i>
		Nicole Thompson <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> <i>Downtown Durham Inc.</i>
		Trey Cash, Moderator <i>Economic Development Director</i> <i>Greene and Lenoir County Governments</i> <i>LNC Class 31 Alumnus and ECD Session Planning Committee Member</i>
11:40 am – 12:40 pm	Lunch and Optional Walk to 1898 Memorial Park	
12:40 – 1:00 pm	Class Business	LNC Team
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Project Grace: A Practical Application of Economic Development	Chris Coudriet <i>Manager</i> <i>New Hanover County</i>
		Brian Eckel <i>Partner</i> <i>Cape Fear Commercial</i>
		The Honorable Dane Scalise <i>County Commissioner</i> <i>New Hanover County</i>
		Lisa Wurtzbacher <i>Assistant County Manager and Former CFO</i> <i>New Hanover County</i>
		Greg McNamara, Moderator <i>Business Development Manager Senior Associate</i> <i>LS3P Associates LTD.</i> <i>LNC Class 31 Alumnus and ECD Session Co-Chair</i>
2:00 – 2:05 pm	Connective Studies: Introductions	
2:05 – 2:15 pm	Afternoon Break	
2:15 – 2:20 pm	Connective Studies: Transition Learning Teams 1-3: Daniels Hall Learning Teams 4-6: Room 527 Learning Teams 7-9: Room 528	

2:20 – 3:50 pm

Connective Studies: Viewing Economic Development Through Other Lenses

Latinos: From Education to Economic Impact

Prudencio IV Martinez Mengel
Director of Recruitment and Outreach
Lenoir Community College
LNC Board of Directors and LNC Class 30 Alumnus

North Carolina's Film Industry

Guy Gaster
Director
North Carolina Film Office

Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency

Heather McWhorter
Director
UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE)

3:50 – 4:00 pm

Wrap Up and Adjourn

6:30 pm

Class Dinner at Front Street Brewery
[Advance RSVP required](#)

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Breakfast and Session: Cape Fear Community College Downtown Campus, Union Station Conference Center, Daniels Hall, 5th Floor, 502 North Front Street, Wilmington

8:00 – 8:30 am

Breakfast (Optional)
[Advance RSVP Required](#)

8:30 – 8:50 am

Morning Reflections

Steven Martin
President & CEO
Constellation Quality Health
LNC Class 31 Alumnus and Class 32 Program Chair

8:50 – 9:50 am

Fireside Chat: *Wilmington's Lie*

David Zucchino
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist and Author

Kevin Price, Moderator
President & CEO
National Institute of Minority Economic Development
LNC Class 31 Alumnus and ECD Session Planning Committee Member

9:50 – 10:10 am

Morning Break
[Snack and beverages will be provided](#)

10:10 – 11:10 am

You Are the Local Economic Developer Now

LNC Class 32

11:15 am – 12:05 pm

Leadership Profile

Sharon Decker
President, Carolinas Operations, Tryon Equestrian Partners
Tryon Resort/Tryon International Equestrian Center
LNC Class 1 Alumna

12:05 – 12:50 pm

Lunch with Simulation Results and Reflections

12:50 – 1:50 pm

Economic Impact of the Military in NC

The Honorable Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette
Secretary
North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Linda Parsons
President and Chief Executive Officer
Moore County Chamber of Commerce

Scott Dorney
Executive Director
North Carolina Military Business Center

Kevin Price, Moderator
President & CEO
National Institute of Minority Economic Development
LNC Class 31 Alumnus and ECD Session Planning Committee Member

1:50 – 2:00 pm

Wrap Up and Adjourn

LNC Team