

LNC Class 33

Government Session

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Raleigh



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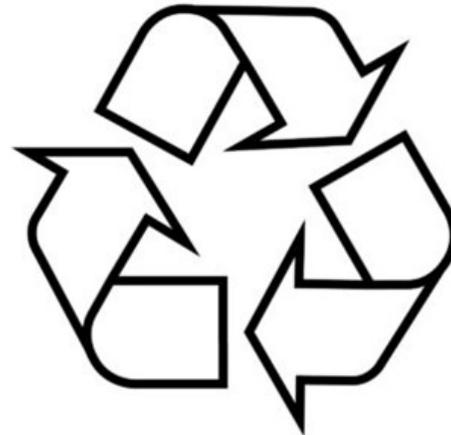
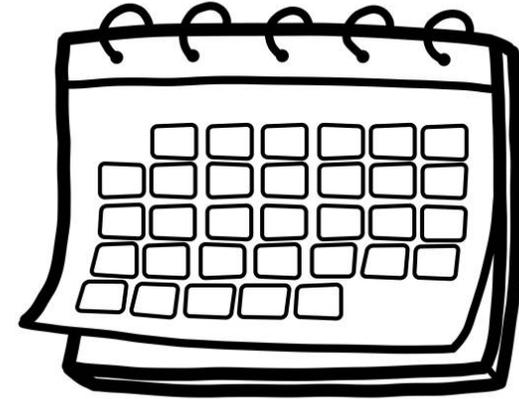
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Safety Minute



Announcements





"We'd now like to open the floor to shorter speeches disguised as questions."



Setting the Stage

Chris Rivera
LNC Class 33 Program Chair

A Letter from LNC Class 32 to Class 33

As you begin your Leadership North Carolina journey, we – your colleagues from Class 32 – want to share the lessons, advice, and encouragement we discovered along the way. Consider this our way of passing the torch to you. Lean in, be present, and make the most of this experience.

Advice from Class 32

- “Don’t be afraid to start a conversation with the person next to you. The relationships you build in LNC are so important!”
- “Lean into the discomfort, the feeling of being overwhelmed, the things you may not know, the people you will meet.”
- “Truth: It will be as good as you make it.”
- “You get out of LNC what you put into it.”
- “Block your calendar. Show up. Be present. Participate. It’s worth it.”
- “Get to know people you think you have very little in common with at first.”
- “Remember, your classmates are the real prize.”
- “The best memories will come from sharing unscripted moments.”
- “Be real. Be yourself. Stay open-minded to perspectives unlike your own.”
- “Try to have a 1:1 conversation with each of your classmates throughout the program.”
- “The people network is the most valuable aspect of LNC. Meet people, make friends.”
- “Don’t waste a minute – this experience will fly by quickly.”
- “Push through uncomfortable moments & conversations; you can create real connections.”

Above all, enjoy this journey. Stay open, stay connected, and invest in one another. Your LNC experience will be what you make of it – and we promise, it can be transformative.

With encouragement,
LNC Class 32



TODAY IS YOUR DAY!





Class 33 Learning Teams

1: Invisible Strings

6: The 6-Pack

2: Metro Merge 85

7: Beach Trail Dogs

3: Common Threads

8: The Cardinals

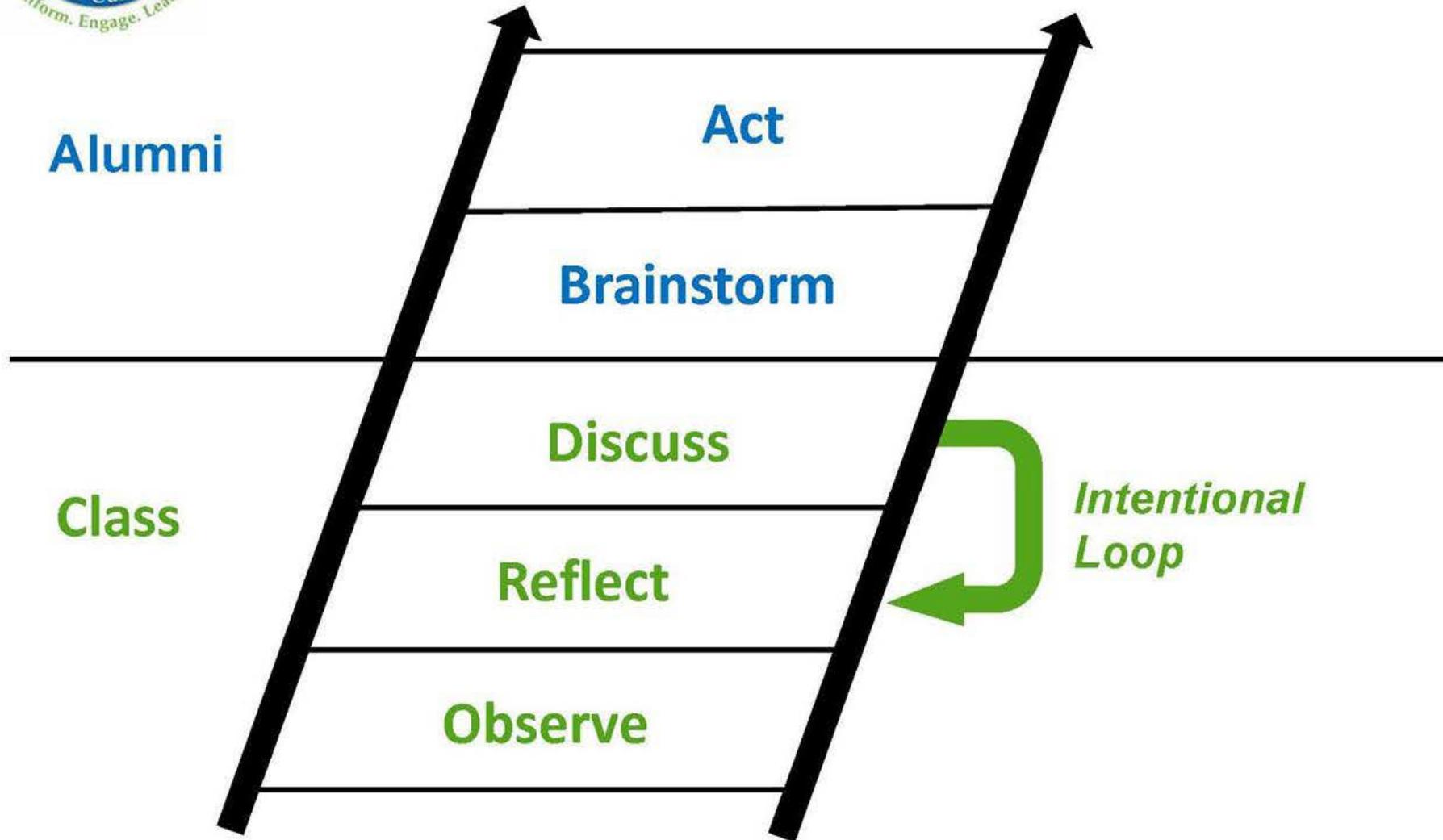
4: Shockwaves

9: Team M&M

5: The Rolling Scones



LNC Learning Model



Learning Model Guiding Principles

- What personal history am I bringing to the conversations?
- What are my biases?
- What do I already think?
- Am I only hearing the things that reinforce what I already think?

Class 33 Class Agreements Team

Deborah Bailey

Saira Estrada

Safiyah Jackson

Eric Marsh

Douglas Rao

Leadership North Carolina Class 33 Team Agreements

Practice Active Listening and Curiosity

It's about: Seeking Understanding

We commit to listening fully and with intention – seeking to understand before being understood. We stay curious about one another's ideas, experiences, and perspectives. Ask questions and explore perspectives with genuine interest.

Engage with Openness, Authenticity, and Vulnerability

It's about: Leading with Courage and Truth

We show up as our whole selves, willing to be open, honest, while engaging in shared learning and decision making. and real. We approach our learning and each other with courage and humility to ensure trust.

Create a Safe, Respectful, and Inclusive Space

It's about: Building Belonging

We build an environment where everyone feels valued, supported, and a sense of belonging. We check our biases, "call in" rather than "call out," and hold space for sharing our lived experiences.

Communicate with Respect, Empathy, and Accountability

It's about: Speaking with Integrity

We engage in open, timely, transparent, and respectful communication, balancing honesty with compassion. We hold ourselves accountable for preparing for, participating in, and following through on all communications. Lean into discomfort and be open to new ideas.

Leadership North Carolina Class 33 Team Agreements

Collaborate and Support Each Other for Collective Growth and Shared Success

It's about: Rising Together

We share responsibility for learning and progress, ensuring all voices are heard and valued. We share time, talent, and treasure for our collective growth and the betterment of NC. We view debate as a healthy form of collaboration and celebrate each other's strengths and contributions.

Embrace Agility, Adaptability, and Continuous Growth

It's about: Evolving with Purpose

We remain open to transformation, willing to learn, unlearn, and adjust. We see challenges as opportunities for reflection, resilience, and new possibilities. We allow space for dissent and staying open to feedback as a tool for evolution.

Be Present for the Shared Experience

It's about: Showing Up Fully

We commit to being present—mentally, emotionally, and physically—so that our time together is meaningful. We show up prepared, engaged, and ready to contribute.

Leadership NC Class 33 Agreements

As members of Leadership North Carolina Class 33, we commit to showing up with openness, authenticity, and intention. We listen deeply—to understand rather than to respond—and approach one another with curiosity, empathy, and respect. Together, we create a safe and inclusive environment where every voice is valued, differences are explored with grace, and learning is grounded in trust and shared humanity.

We hold ourselves accountable for being present, prepared, and engaged in each session, recognizing that our growth depends on the energy we bring and the space we create for others to grow alongside us. We communicate honestly and respectfully, offering feedback with care and receiving it with humility. As we navigate this journey, we remain adaptable and reflective—willing to learn, unlearn, and adjust—embracing challenge as an invitation to transformation.

Above all, we honor the spirit of collaboration and collective success: supporting one another, celebrating our diverse perspectives, and committing to the shared pursuit of leadership that makes a difference in our communities and our state.



Setting the Stage

Adam Caldwell and Cristina España
Government Session Co-Chairs

Government Session Planning Committee

Adam Caldwell, Co-Chair
WithersRavenel

Cristina España, Co-Chair
Office of the Governor

Amy Bason
North Carolina Association of County
Commissioners

Susanna Birdsong
Planned Parenthood South Atlantic

Morgan Edwards Whaley
Triangle Residential Options for
Substance Abusers (TROSAs)

Hank Henning
Duke Energy

James Hunter
RTI International

Maryam Meseha
Pierson Ferdinand

Melissa Miller
Martin Marietta Materials

Mary Moore
SAS

Molly O'Connor
Three Ships

Civics 101

Kara Millonzi

Coming Up!

Now – 2:20: Break, presentations, working lunch

2:20 pm: Partnered walk to the Legislative Building—less than 2 blocks

- QUICK departure—Leave what you can here to streamline security

2:40 – 4:00 pm: “Legislative Process,” “Mock Session,” and “Voices of Legislators”

- Be respectful of the space and this unique opportunity—no food or drink
- Don’t touch things on Members’ desks or take selfies in seats

5:00: Optional happy hour organized by Class 32 at Watts & Ward

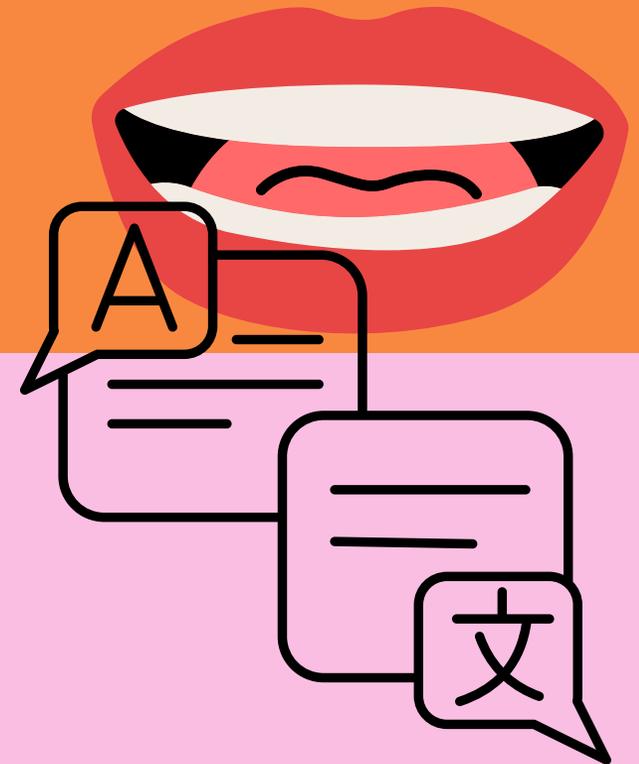
6:30 pm: Dinner—Enter through Sitti to access courtyard. Find a new friend to sit with!

Thursday

- Check out of the hotel before session
- 8 – 8:30 am Breakfast, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm Program

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

INSTRUCTIONS



CHANNEL / CANAL:

Please keep your device on **Channel A.**

Por favor, mantenga su dispositivo en el **Canal A.**

VOLUME / VOLUMEN:

Use the small wheel to **turn the device on** and **adjust the volume.**

Utilice la rueda para **encender el dispositivo** y **ajustar el volumen.**

HEADSET / AURICULAR:

Wear your headset comfortably.

Lower the volume when you understand the language.

Colóquese el auricular cómodamente.

Baje el volumen cuando entienda el idioma.

INTERFERENCE / INTERFERENCIA:

If you hear noise, move your **cellphone away** or **replace the batteries.**

Si escucha ruido, **aleje su celular** o **cambie las baterías.**

RETURN / DEVOLUCIÓN:

At the end of the session, **please return all equipment.** It's valuable :)

Al finalizar la sesión, **por favor devuelva todo el equipo.** Es valioso :)



**EQUIPMENT
USE**

**USO
DEL
EQUIPO**



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Leadership Profile

The Honorable Janet Cowell
Mayor, City of Raleigh

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**EQUIPMENT
USE**

**USO
DEL
EQUIPO**



Equal Access to Government

David Payne, NC DHHS

Jodie Stanley, City of Greensboro

Yesenia Cuello, NC FIELD

Tunya Smith, NC DOT

Cristina España, Office of the Governor - Moderator

Coming Up!

Now – 2:20: Working lunch and presentations

2:20 pm: Partnered walk to the Legislative Building—less than 2 blocks

- QUICK departure—Leave what you can here to streamline security

2:40 – 4:00 pm: “Legislative Process,” “Mock Session,” and “Voices of Legislators”

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- Don’t touch things on Members’ desks or take selfies in seats

5:00: Optional happy hour organized by Class 32 at Watts & Ward

6:30 pm: Dinner—Enter through Sitti to access courtyard. Find a new friend to sit with!

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Working Lunch: Legislative Simulation Prep

Amy Bason and Hank Henning
Government Session Planning Team

Working Lunch: Legislative Simulation Prep



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Class Business



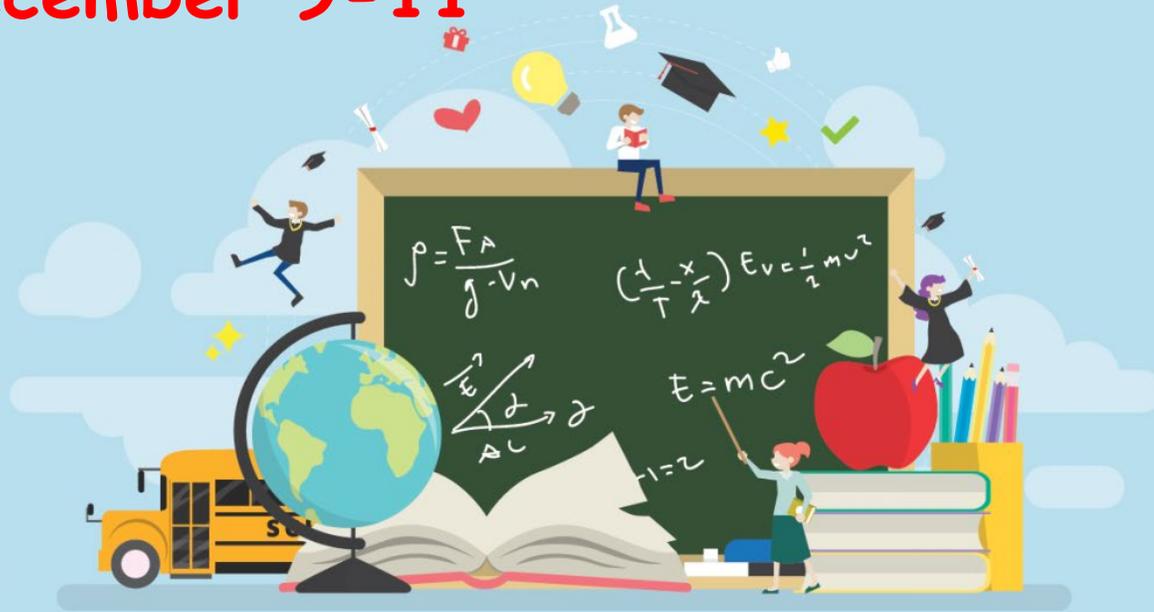


Send me a copy of my responses.

Back

Submit

December 9-11



PLEMMONS STUDENT UNION



"Where I'm From" Poems

Sneak Peek: Free Coaching Sessions

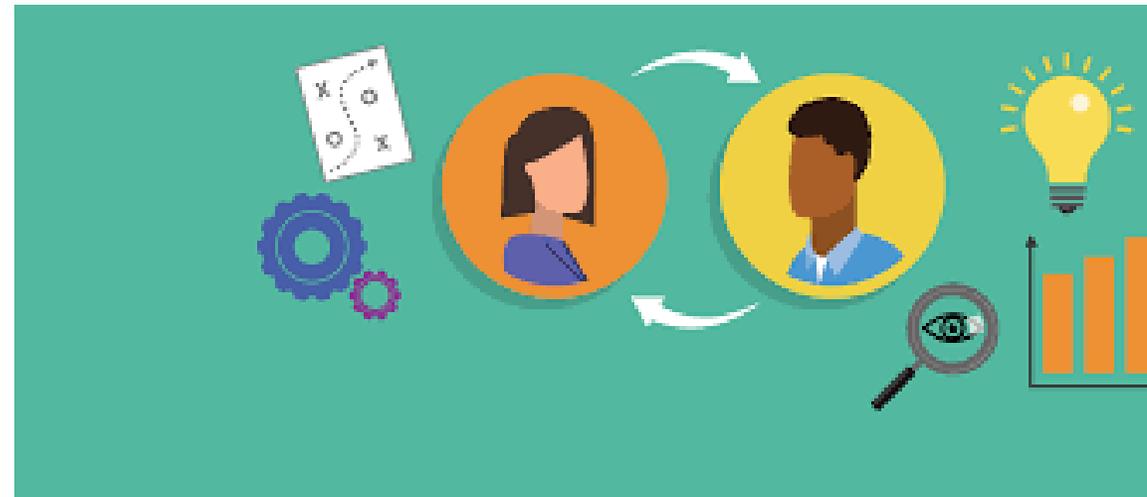
Coaching Opportunity (Optional)

- 3 hours of coaching after graduation
- \$600 value, no cost to participants
- ICF-certified coaches

Virtual Info Session

- Tuesday, February 24, 4:30 pm

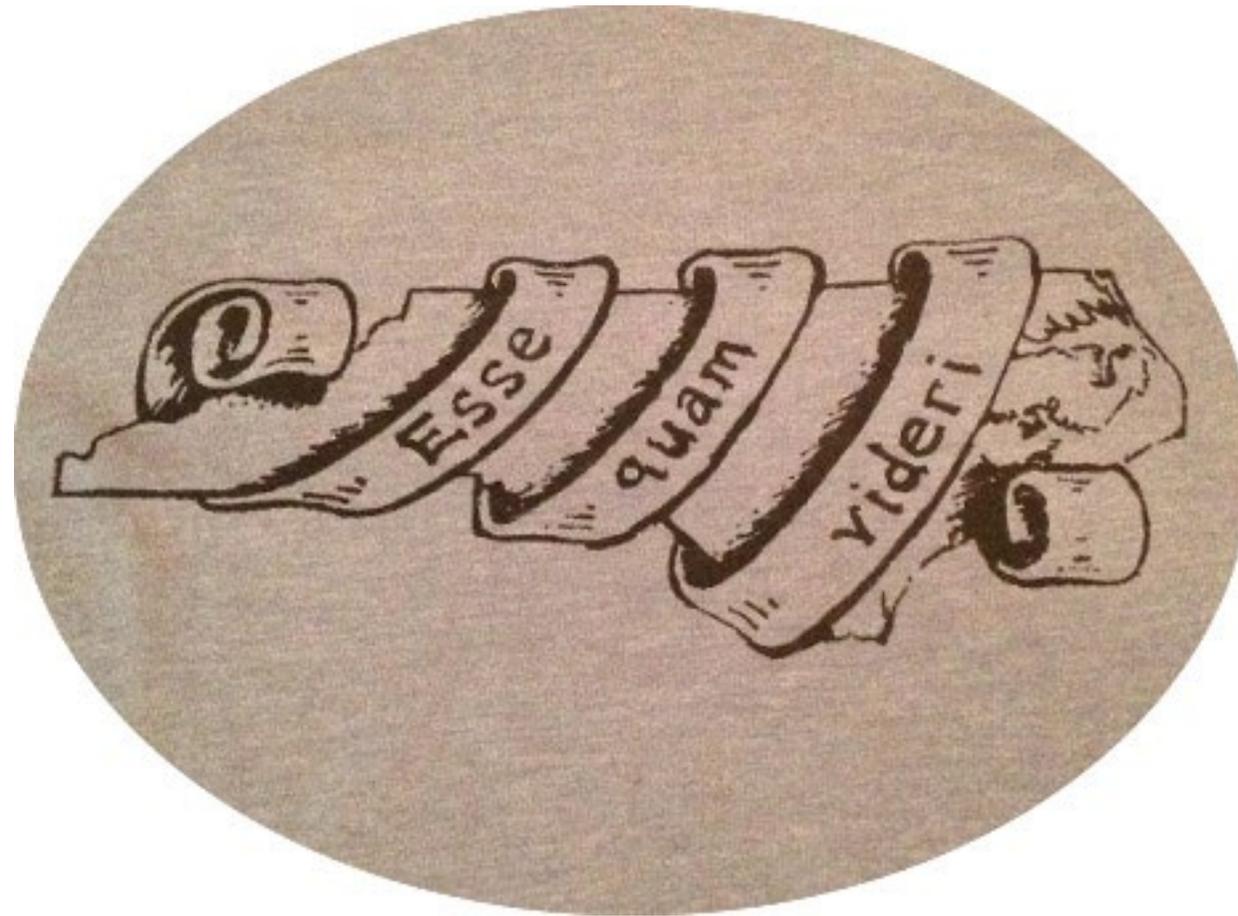
Registration Details to Come



“The responsibility of leadership is not to come up with all the ideas but to create an environment in which great ideas can happen.”

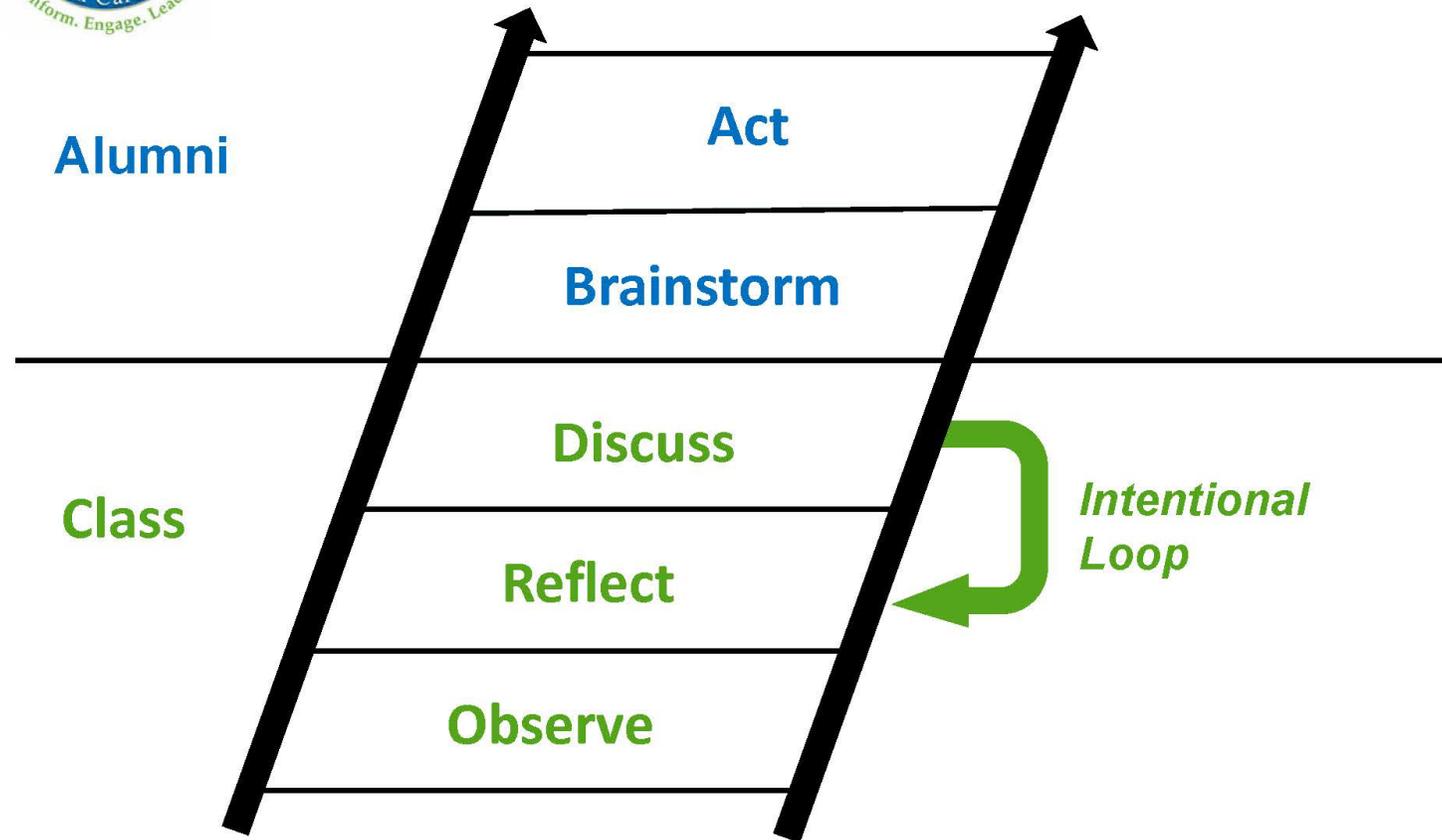
—Simon Sinek

Honoring Who You Are / What You Do





LNC Learning Model



“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb in his skin and walk around in it.”

– Scout Finch, To Kill A Mockingbird

Three Cups of Coffee



What Is Next?



Get Action





Stanley Frank Award



An Introduction to Lobbying

Rufus Edmisten
Edmisten & Webb Law

Political Playbook for NC 2026

Paul Shumaker, Capitol Communications, Inc.

Morgan Jackson, Nexus Strategies, Inc.

Coming Up!

2:20 pm: Partnered walk to the Legislative Building—less than 2 blocks

- QUICK departure—Leave what you can here to streamline security
- Pick a partner, grab a card with prompts, enjoy your walk and time settling in across the street!

2:40 – 4:00 pm: “Legislative Process,” “Mock Session,” and “Voices of Legislators”

- Be respectful of the space and this unique opportunity—no food or drink
- Don’t touch things on Members’ desks or take selfies in seats
- You can leave from there or come back here

5:00: Optional self-pay happy hour organized by Class 32 at Watts & Ward

6:30 pm: Dinner—Enter through Sitti to access courtyard. Find a new friend to sit with!

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The Legislative Process and Mock Vote

James White

Voices of Legislators

Senator Sydney Batch
Representative John R. Bell, IV

Hank Henning, Moderator

LNC Class 33

Government Session

Thursday, November 6, 2025
Raleigh



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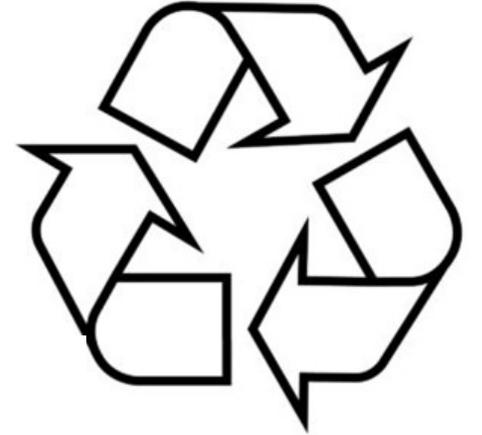
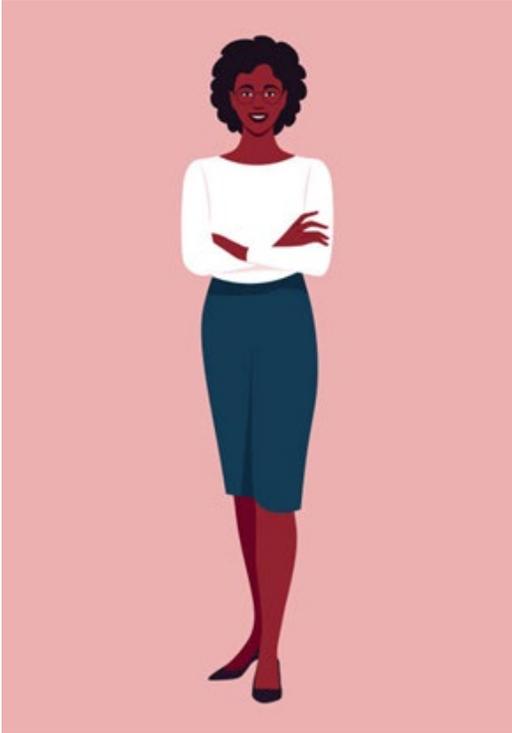
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Safety Minute



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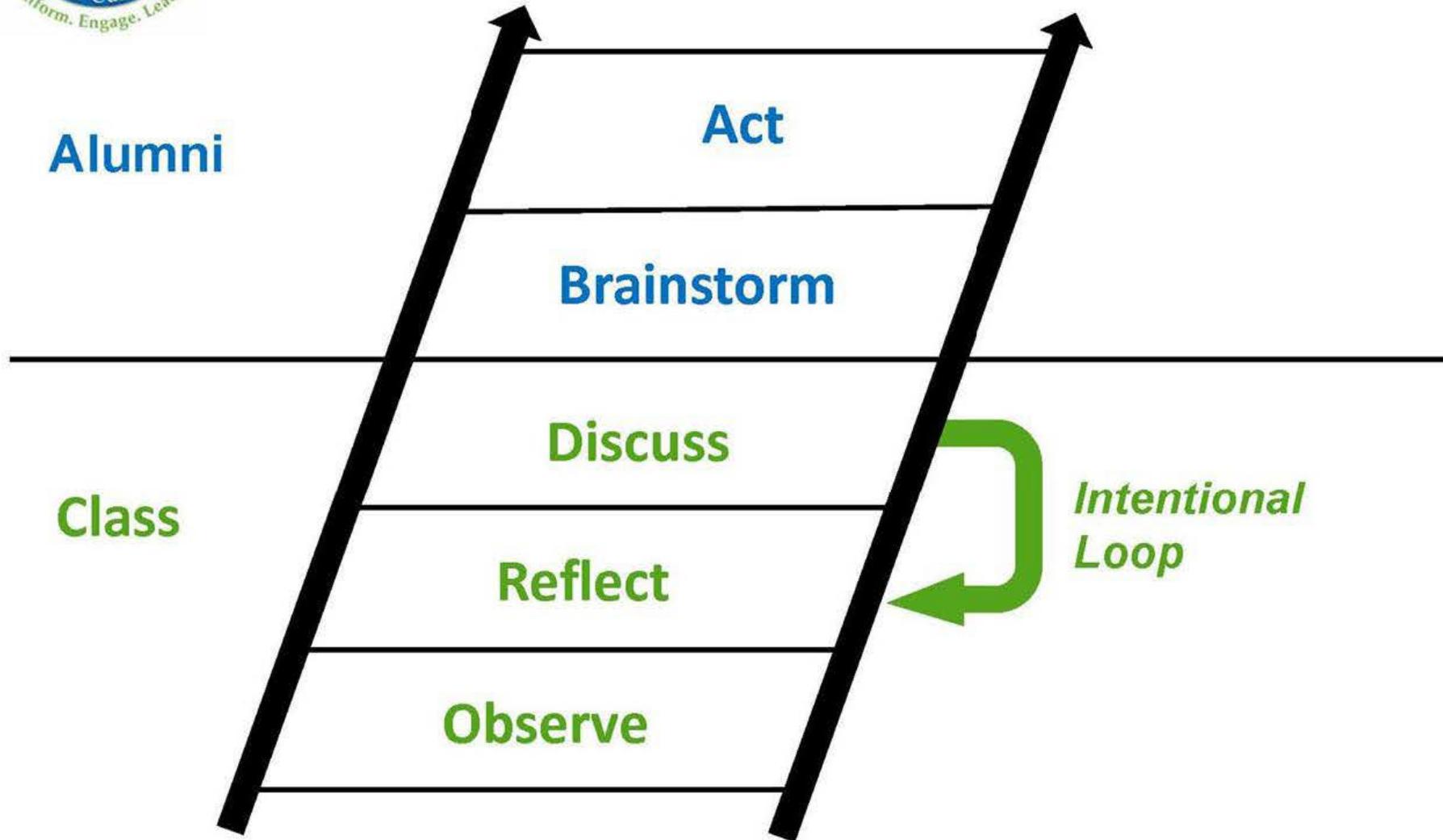


Morning Reflections

- Look back: What stood out from yesterday?
- What moment or insight stuck with you?
- Carry that forward as we build today



LNC Learning Model



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Kudos!



All Rise – North Carolina's Judicial System

Ryan Boyce

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Political Trends and Their Impact in NC

Dr. Christopher A. Cooper
Western Carolina University

The Story of Local Government: Funding, Financing, and Foresight

David Ellis, Wake County

Sean Martin, Town of White Lake

Kevin Leonard, Moderator

NC Association of County Commissioners

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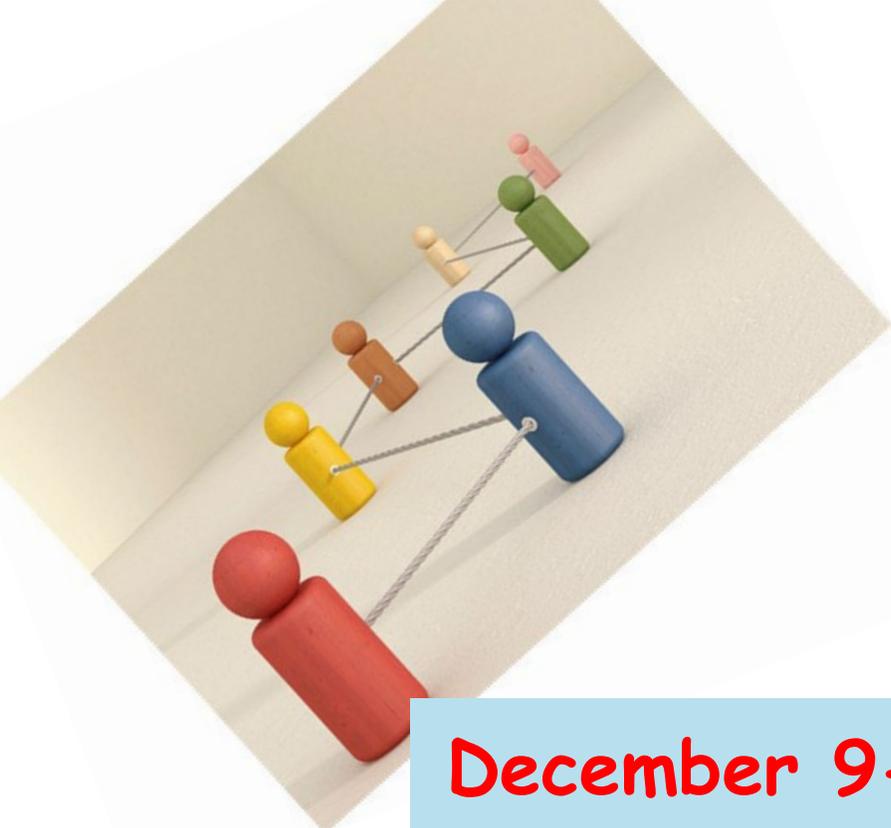




Budgetopolis

Tracy Miles

UNC School of Government

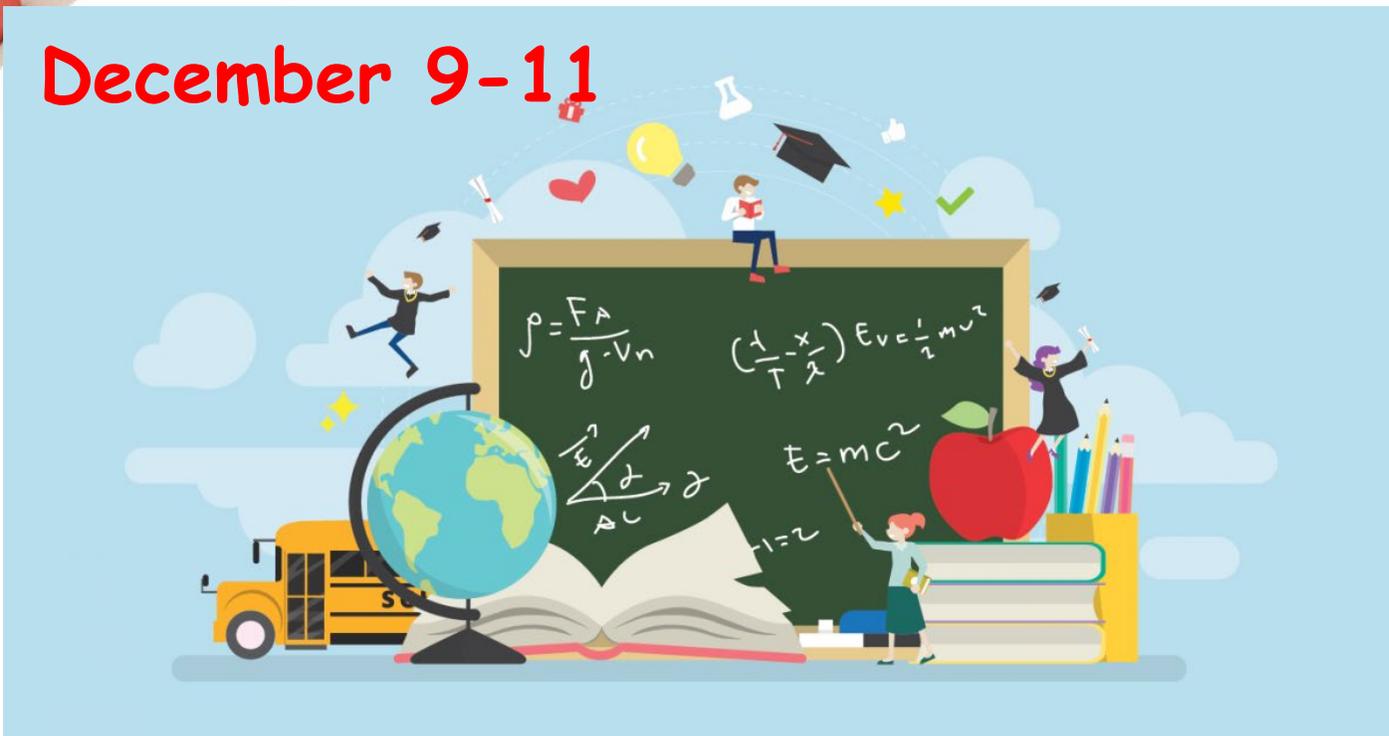


Thank you!!

Five circular icons representing different emotions: a blue happy face, a cyan happy face, a yellow neutral face, an orange sad face, and a red angry face.

Send me a copy of my responses.

Back Submit





WRAP-UP

Why One Word?

Snapshot of where you are today

Builds connection and shared understanding

We'll revisit at graduation to reflect on your journey

One Word Check-In

Examples: *excited,*
curious, stretched,
overwhelmed,
grateful



One Word Check-In



Think of ONE WORD that captures what you are thinking and feeling at the end of the Government session



Examples: excited, curious, stretched, overwhelmed, grateful



Jot your word on your card and we'll collect them

See You in December!

- Clear your tables
- Leave your nametags
- Safe travels
- Thank you!

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Extra Slides Follow
