



## Leadership North Carolina Class XXVI

Duke Energy Economic Development Session  
March 5 – 7, 2019  
Wilmington

### Speaker Directory

**Ms. Bethany Welch**

Senior Manager, Communications and Business Outreach  
North Carolina Ports  
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Bethany Welch joined the North Carolina Ports team in August 2017 and currently serves as the Senior Manager of Communications and Business Outreach.

In her current position, she actively participates in the development and execution of the strategic communications plan for North Carolina Ports. She maintains local and statewide media relations and online and social media communications, as well as promotes the NC Ports brand. Ms. Welch also works closely with economic development partners across the state with a mission to attract business to North Carolina and NC Ports.

Ms. Welch arrived at NC Ports with a background in television news. She most recently served as a Senior News Producer for Spectrum News in Raleigh, NC. During that time she helped create and implement new programming and participated in a variety of special projects ranging from political coverage of the 2016 Presidential election to Final Four coverage of the UNC Chapel Hill men's basketball NCAA national championship victory.

She has a degree in broadcast journalism from Gardner-Webb University.

### **Dr. Jose V. "Zito" Sartarelli**

Chancellor

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

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Dr. Jose V. Sartarelli is the sixth chancellor and ninth leader of the University North Carolina Wilmington. Dr. Sartarelli brings more than 35 years of professional leadership experience to UNCW. Under his leadership, the university is focused on the priorities outlined in the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. He is committed to attracting the best students, faculty, and staff to UNCW by supporting the university's success in applied learning, community engagement, and academic research. Under his leadership, UNCW is focused on diversity and globalization, ethics and integrity, and excellence and innovation.

A native of Brazil, Dr. Sartarelli received a bachelor of business administration in marketing (1973) from the São Paulo School of Business Administration (Fundação Getulio Vargas) in São Paulo, Brazil. He then attended Michigan State University as a Fulbright Scholar, earning an MBA in marketing (1975) and a doctorate in business administration (1979). He met his wife, Katherine Ann Sartarelli, during graduate school at Michigan State, where she earned a master's degree in biophysics.

The chancellor, who took office July 1, 2015, came from West Virginia University, where he served as the Milan Puskar Dean of the College of Business and Economics for five years. At WVU, Dr. Sartarelli led a business college that enrolled more than 2,700 students and was ranked by Businessweek as one of the top 100 undergraduate business programs in the nation.

Before transitioning into higher education, Chancellor Sartarelli spent three decades in marketing and management for the international pharmaceutical industry. From 2001 to 2010, Chancellor Sartarelli worked for Johnson & Johnson as pharmaceutical group chairman for Asia-Pacific, Japan and Latin America. In 1997, he joined Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. as senior vice president of franchise management, business analysis, and planning. He was later named president of two international medicines groups. He began his career with Eli Lilly and Co. where, over the course of 17 years, he held senior positions with increasing levels of responsibility for company operations in the United States, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific.

He and Katherine, also an active volunteer in civic and community organizations, are proud Seahawks who enjoy being a part of the UNCW family.

### **Mr. Jim Morton**

President

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Jim Morton was named President of Cape Fear Community College in April 2018. President Morton's vision is to make Cape Fear Community College the college of choice for students, the employer of choice for faculty and staff, and the partner of choice in the community. President Morton has been instrumental in building relationships with

four-year institutions and area schools as well as business and industry. Under his leadership, the college has been recognized for numerous awards, including the prestigious Wilmington Business Development Ally of the Year Award.

Prior to being named president he served as the college's Executive Vice President as well as the Vice President for Business and Financial Services.

Before joining Cape Fear Community College, Mr. Morton served as the Finance Director for the Wilmington International Airport (ILM) for approximately 15 years. President Morton also has experience working in Commercial and Industrial Sales and as a Senior Insurance Adjustor.

Mr. Morton is active in New Hanover and Pender Counties and has been recognized for his leadership by a number of community organizations. He was selected as the president of the Airlie Gardens Foundation Board and the Cape Fear Rotary. In addition, he has served on the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America, Honor Flight, and North Carolina's Southeast Regional Economic Development Partnership and as a United Way Campaign Coordinator.

Mr. Morton holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington - Cameron School of Business. Mr. Morton and his wife, Leigh, have two sons: John, who recently graduated from East Carolina University, and Will, who is attending NC State.

#### **Mr. John Loyack**

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John Loyack is the Vice President of Global Business Services for the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. In this role, John leads the department composed of the EDPNC regional offices, the International Trade Division, and the small business counseling team known as Business Link North Carolina. This team supports existing North Carolina businesses in everything from starting up a new enterprise to expanding an existing business to the development of export strategies aimed at increasing international sales. John has over twenty-five years of experience in the areas of global product development, export strategy, and strategic planning; and prior to joining EDPNC, John worked for companies like Thomson Reuters, Time Warner and Esteve Laboratories. John earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Spanish from Gettysburg College and holds an MBA in International Business Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management. He is fluent in Spanish and is a US patent holder and a Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP®). In addition to being a member of the Board of Go Global NC, he is also a member of the NC Apprenticeship Council and the NC MEP Advisory Board and is on the Board of Advisors for the NC Japan Center.

## Ms. Sheri Shaw

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## LNC Class XXV and Incoming Alumni Chair

Sheri Shaw serves as Assistant Dean for Student Success for the College of Health and Human Services at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW). A native of Illinois, Sheri Shaw is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in community health and Master of Education in educational and vocational technology. Currently, she is in the final stages of her doctorate at Illinois in Community Health with an emphasis in Education Policy and Organizational Development. She also holds a degree from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, CA, and is currently pursuing a MS in Gerontology at UNCW.

As an administrator, Shaw works to craft leadership, trust, service learning and development opportunities to engage and promote academic, personal, peer mentorship, community engagement, institutional responsibility and accountability. She began her academic career at Illinois, where she created and received a \$2 million-dollar endowment to establish the award-winning Mannie L. Jackson Illinois Academic Enrichment and Leadership Program (I-LEAP) within the College of Applied Health Sciences. After Illinois, Shaw worked at Drexel University in the LeBow College of Business, developing policies and operations to enhance efficiency and the student experience as the director of undergraduate student services, including the implementation and management of the award-winning student enrichment program, LeBow BRIDGE. Prior to UNCW, Shaw worked directly for Mannie Jackson as his Chief of Staff, overseeing a \$66 million dollar program proposal and structural build in Edwardsville, IL.

In her professional tenure thus far, Shaw, a first-generation student, has fought to provide resources to underserved communities and students, with a focus on building awareness, equitable resources, and education. As a result of her efforts on diversity and inclusion, she was the youngest to be awarded the Larine Y. Cowan "Make a Difference" Award by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access and the Robert P. Larsen Human Development Award from the University of Illinois. Shaw led team initiatives that resulted in I-LEAP receiving the outstanding program award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). Additionally, Shaw received the President's Award for Intercultural Engagement and Diversity from Drexel University, due to her innovative work with the LeBow BRIDGE Program. Shaw has also received award recognition from the alumni associations of Drexel and Illinois due to her efforts to increase retention, persistence, and graduation rates of underrepresented and underserved students during and after her tenure.

Shaw's academic philosophy is rooted in personal branding, leadership, self-confidence, awareness, accountability, and professional development. Possessing a strong professional background in collaboration, retention, recruitment, program development, and diversity, she enjoys the opportunity to work with students, staff, faculty, administrators, community leaders and other constituents to promote project success. As the Assistant Dean for Student Success, Shaw has increased student engagement, expanded retention initiatives, and led new outreach initiatives, including the RIBN expansion to surrounding southeastern NC community colleges. Last year, Shaw participated and completed Leadership North Carolina and Leadership Wilmington. She is currently a participant in the Wilma Leadership Institute and serves on the Leadership North Carolina Board of Directors.

Outside of her professional role, Shaw creates high impact practices focusing on quality of life and building sustainable resources for families and communities, with hopes to minimize food insecurities. She also has a passion for establishing family infrastructures to support and educate the African American aging population. As a kidney donor, Shaw works diligently to educate others on the impacts of exercise, diet, and overall healthy behaviors.

**Ms. Anita R. Brown-Graham**

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Anita R. Brown-Graham rejoined the School of Government in September 2016 to lead nclIMPACT—the public launch of a special initiative that seeks to expand the School’s capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues. In less than two years, Anita and her colleagues have devised programs to support communities working on economic mobility, poverty, the expansion of prekindergarten, extending the labor pool, and opioid misuse and abuse. Brown-Graham’s first tour as a faculty member was from 1994–2006, when she specialized in governmental liability and community economic development aimed at revitalizing communities.

In 2007 Anita became the director of the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University. There, she led IEI’s work to build North Carolina’s capacity for economic development and prosperity. Each year, she and her colleagues at IEI worked with leaders across North Carolina in business, government, and higher education to focus on issues important to North Carolina’s future. Anita began her career as a law clerk in the Eastern District of California. She is a William C. Friday Fellow, American Marshall Fellow, and Eisenhower Fellow. In 2013, the White House named her a Champion of Change for her work at IEI, and the Triangle Business Journal named her a 2014 Woman in Business for her policy leadership in the state and a 2017 CEO of the year. Anita currently serves on the boards of several organizations. She earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Mr. Randall Johnson**

LNC Class XV

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Randall Johnson serves as the NC Biotechnology Center Southeastern Office Executive Director. He works to strengthen the regional economy and to improve the quality of life across North Carolina through economic development action targeting innovation and commercialization in marine biotech, agricultural biotech, renewable bioproducts/energy, clinical research, and industrial biotech.

Johnson has extensive experience in local and regional economic development, with a focus on entrepreneurship and knowledge-sector development. He graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University with an undergraduate concentration in psychology, and he holds an MBA from the Babcock Graduate School of Management at Wake Forest University.

He has completed several International Economic Development Council courses, including Basic Economic Development, Technology-Led Economic Development, Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development Strategies, Real Estate Development and Reuse, Economic Development Strategic Planning, and Business Retention and Expansion.

He serves on volunteer boards in the region and state, including as Chairman of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission, Secretary/Treasurer of the NC Economic Development Association, the NC Sustainable Energy Association, Wilmington Rotary Club, and the Advisory Committee for Biotechnology in Southeastern North Carolina, which he helped found. His work with statewide partners led to the creation of NC's Marine Biotechnology Center of Innovation and the NC Coast Clinical Research Initiative.

Johnson is a graduate of Leadership North Carolina Class XV and was awarded the US President's Volunteer Service Award, a national award recognizing individuals who have answered the call to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service.

He and his wife Leigh live with their son, Wallace "Ace," in Wilmington, NC.

### **Mr. Brian Warren**

Partner

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Sampson County native Brian Warren farms crops and livestock in a family partnership in Newton Grove, NC. The Warren farming operation produces crops on a total of 7,000 acres including tobacco, sweet potatoes, cotton, corn, wheat and soybeans, grain and sorghum, and coastal bermuda. Livestock includes 5,000 sows and 40,000 feeder to finish hogs on contract along with two pig nurseries. The Warren Farming partners, together, maintain an inventory of nearly 1,000 cattle.

Brian is a graduate of North Carolina State University, with a bachelor's degree in communication. In 2010, Brian completed the North Carolina State University Agricultural Leadership Development Program where he had the opportunity to spend time observing farm operations in Brazil. Organizations that Mr. Warren participates in as an active member include: The North Carolina Cattleman's Association, where he serves on the board as the ex-officio President; the National Cattleman's Beef Association; the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina; and the Sweet Potato Marketing Co-Op. Brian also serves on the board of directors for the North Carolina State University Agricultural Foundation.

### **Ms. Lynn Minges**

President and Chief Executive Officer

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Lynn Minges has served as President and Chief Executive Officer for the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA) since December 2012. In this role she works to protect, educate, and promote the diverse interests of North Carolina's hospitality industry before the North Carolina legislature and lobbies against unfair governmental regulation. The industry represents more than \$22 billion in sales annually and employs 13 percent of the state's workforce.

Prior to accepting her current position, Minges served as Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Film, and Sports Development with the North Carolina Department of Commerce. During her 20-year tenure, tourism revenues in the state more than doubled, cooperative marketing partnerships grew to more than \$6 million annually, and North Carolina grew market share to become the sixth most visited state in America. Under her leadership, the department was recognized with more than 30 awards for organizational and marketing excellence.

Minges currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the International Society of Hotel Associations and is a board member of the NC Travel and Tourism Coalition. She has chaired the Council of State Restaurant Associations, the National Council of State Tourism Directors, and Travel South USA. In recognition for outstanding service to the state of North Carolina, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Bev Purdue. In addition, she has been recognized by *Triangle Business Journal* for the Outstanding Women in Business Award and was named Career Woman of the Year by the Business and Professional Women of North Carolina.

Minges is a native of Bladen County and is a graduate of Peace College and North Carolina State University. She and her husband, Brad, make their home in Raleigh.

### **The Honorable Holly Grange**

Representative, District 20  
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Holly Grange currently serves as District 20 Representative to the North Carolina House of Representatives which includes much of New Hanover County. She was again selected as the Deputy Majority Conference Leader and has been appointed to the following committee positions: Banking (chair); Elections and Ethics Law (chair); Homeland Security; Military and Veterans Affairs (vice chair); Appropriations Sub-committee Education; Redistricting; Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House; Joint Legislative Education Oversight; and House Select Storm Related River Debris.

Rep. Grange is also the director of community relations at Osprey Global Solutions, a Wilmington company specializing in remote medical, logistics, security, training, and business intelligence services. She is a 15-year US Army Veteran having served on active duty and in the reserves as an officer in the US Army Corp of Engineers. Rep. Grange currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Coastal Horizons Center, the Board of Directors of the Cape Fear Community College Foundation, and the Advisory Board for the Swain Center for Professional Development at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

### **Ms. Natalie English**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
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Natalie English currently serves as president and chief executive officer of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. English previously served for almost 20 years in advocacy roles at the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, most recently as Chief Public Policy Officer where she managed the Chamber's efforts to affect policy relating to business issues at all levels of government.

Natalie has almost 30 years of experience monitoring legislative and regulatory issues locally, statewide, and at the federal level. She has a strong track record of success and has been responsible for building community support for many investments in infrastructure that have been key to Wilmington's and Charlotte's economic development. She has leadership experience and background in affecting policies that impact the cost and ease of doing business, quality of life, and workforce.

In Wilmington, she has become a trusted voice for businesses and advocates tirelessly for their success. Most recently, during recovery from Hurricane Florence, Natalie has focused on reminding the community as well as state and federal partners that our recovery must include efforts to improve the national rate of recovery for small businesses. She is also co-leading a group of SENC local government and business leaders to advocate for infrastructure investments that will prevent the region from being cut-off by flooding in future storms.

Natalie's role as the Charlotte Chamber's Chief Public Policy Officer included managing campaigns for community referenda that helped lead to the passage of over \$5 billion in infrastructure investments since 2006. In 2007, she served as the chief staff person managing the Vote Against Repeal campaign and the campaign to push for passage of four county bond referenda to improve infrastructure in the Charlotte community. The Vote Against Repeal campaign successfully convinced 70% of Mecklenburg County voters to defeat the effort to repeal the dedicated funding source for Charlotte's mass transit program and all four bond issues passed.

Natalie received her B.A. in Communications from North Carolina State University and achieved her designation as a Certified Chamber Executive in 2012, one of only approximately 700 in the world. In 2010, the National Association of Women Business Owners – Charlotte Chapter awarded Natalie its Community Service Award. In 2008, Natalie was awarded the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship and completed a 25-day trip to Europe to learn about and advance trans-Atlantic relations. She was named as a 2008 Women in Business Achievement Award Winner by the Charlotte Business Journal and in 2009 and 2013 the Mecklenburg Times named Natalie one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Charlotte.

Natalie has also been an active volunteer, having served on the board of MeckEd, Partners in Out of School Time (POST), Leadership Charlotte, the Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Alexander Youth Network, United Way, Charlotte Mecklenburg Workforce Development Board, the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research, and Junior Achievement. She has also been an active leader in her church, having served three years as chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee at Assurance United Methodist Church overseeing the staff management and hiring practices that led to a marked increase in attendance and stewardship. She served as President of the Charlotte Rotary Club and led the members in celebrations related to the club's Centennial in 2016.

In her spare time, Natalie enjoys spending time with her son Rick on the sidelines of his many sports activities, playing golf, reading, and writing.



### **Beverly Tetterton**

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### **Glenn Tetterton**

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Beverly and Glenn Tetterton have lived in Wilmington's historic district for nearly forty years. Together they wrote two volumes of The North Carolina County Fact Book, which gives 25 facts about each county. In doing so, the couple traveled to all one-hundred of North Carolina's counties. They have a unique take on race and economics because they have not only taught it, they have lived it since 1981.

Glenn taught German and history in local high schools. He attended East Carolina University, Duke, and UC-Santa Barbara. While teaching he did many years of student exchanges with a gymnasium in Braunschweig, Germany. For many years he served on Wilmington's Sister City Commission. Now retired, he volunteers for several nonprofits in Wilmington and occasionally gives lectures on the Jewish experience.

Beverly was the long-time state and local history librarian at the New Hanover County Public Library. The collection there is one of the oldest in the state. She attended Peace College, William and Mary College, East Carolina University, and North Carolina Central University. During her tenure at the library she helped everyone from students to scholars to family historians. She is the author of several books including Strength Through Struggle: The Chronological and Historical Record of the African-American Community in Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865-1950. She served on Wilmington's Historic Preservation Commission for ten years. A long-time volunteer at the Historic Wilmington Foundation, she chairs the committee that places historic plaques on buildings.

### **Ms. Maureen Little**

Vice President of Economic Development  
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**LNC Class XIX**

Maureen Little is the vice president of economic development for the NC Community Colleges. In this role, she has responsibility for BioNetwork, Customized Training, and the Small Business Center Network. Maureen works closely with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, connecting economic development opportunities with the state's 58 community colleges to ensure the availability of a well-skilled, well-trained workforce.

She began her work in economic development in 1987 as director of business and industry services at Stanly Community College. After 11 years at the local college level, she joined the NC Community College System as a regional director for economic development.

Maureen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 2012, she participated in Leadership North Carolina and was the proud recipient of the Stanley Frank Class Award. Currently, Maureen serves on the Global Transpark Board of Directors and the NCWorks Commission.

**Mr. Kevyn Fulcher**

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Kevyn Fulcher started working with Progress Energy in 2001 as a lineman. He worked for eight years as a lineman in the Cary operations center before accepting a role as a C&M Supervisor in the Zebulon Operations Center. He served Duke Energy as a supervisor for seven years in several operation centers before moving to Senior Technical Training Specialist. In the fall of 2017, he moved into his current role of Employee Development Manager for the Carolinas East.

**Mr. Eric Thigpen**

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Eric has 32 years of experience in the electric utility industry. He spent the first 22 working for Carolina Power & Light and Progress Energy as a lineman, supervisor, and manager in both distribution and transmission departments. The last 10 years have been spent in the contracting side of the industry, working in safety, training, and management for helicopter-based service providers. Eric currently serves as the Director of Safety and Training for MasTec Utility Services Group East Region. In this role he is responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of training and safety programs for 1,400 employees covering 10 states performing natural gas, telecommunications, and electrical infrastructure work.

Eric is a native of North Carolina who currently lives in Apex with his wife and daughter. He enjoys golf, flying, and spending time with his family at horse shows.

**Ms. Sarah Wright**

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Sarah Wright works for Sturdy Corporation, a local manufacturing company, as the Human Resources Manager. She has almost 20 years of experience in Human Resources with time spent in various industries including manufacturing, retail, state government, and hospitality. Sarah has her Master's in Business Administration from East

Carolina University and is PHR and SHRM-CP certified. She serves on the board of her local SHRM Chapter, the Lower Cape Fear Human Resource Association, as the Programming Chair.

#### **Mr. Dan Gerlach**

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Since October 2008, Dan Gerlach has served as president of the Golden LEAF Foundation. Dan has previously served as a legislative budget analyst, nonprofit policy director, and senior advisor to the Governor. He has served on over a dozen commissions on budget, tax, agriculture, and economic development at the state and national level. Dan formerly served on the NC Network of Grantmakers Board of Directors and is currently on the boards of the MyFutureNC Commission and the NC Early Childhood Foundation. He is also actively involved in his church.

Dan holds an M.P.A. in state and local public finance from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and bachelor's degrees in economics and English from the University of Notre Dame. He has served as an adjunct instructor of public administration at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University.

#### **Ms. Melissa Smith**

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Melissa has been a leading business recruiter for the State of North Carolina since 2006 and, while she can hardly believe she's old enough, has 25 years of economic development experience.

Melissa has been serving as the Senior Manager of Business Recruitment with the Economic Development Partnership since the company's inception in 2014. In this role, she leads comprehensive business expansion, recruitment, and relocation efforts.

Beginning in 2006, she served in a business recruitment capacity for the NC Department of Commerce. Prior to that, Melissa worked for a local economic development organization in central North Carolina in a variety of functions from research and marketing to existing business support and business attraction.

**Mr. Scott Millar**

President

Catawba County Economic Development Corporation

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Scott Millar has served the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation since 1994 and as its president since November 1997. He is a current member of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance board of directors, is past President of the North Carolina Economic Developer's Association, and is a current member of the Board for the Association. He was named NCEDA's Economic Developer of the Year in 2010.

He and his wife Mary live in Hickory with their dog Seamus.

**Mr. Albert Eckel**

Co-Founder and Partner

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Albert is the co-founder and partner for Eckel & Vaughan, a strategic communications agency based in Raleigh, NC. With over 20 years of communications and marketing experience across corporate reputation, brand positioning, executive visibility, and issues management, his in-depth expertise, unexpected ideas, and ingenious storytelling drives valuable impact for clients on a daily basis.

In his current role, he guides strategic communications, builds trust, and propels business value by supporting clients in addressing their most pressing needs and challenges. Early in his career, Albert provided leadership management, communication strategy, and support for a variety of nationwide Fortune 500 companies. Albert is currently the Chairman of the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) and has served on numerous other boards in North Carolina. He is a recipient of the Old North State award by the Governor of North Carolina.

Family and service to community are the driving forces in his personal life. Currently Albert is raising funds for the Real Men Wear Pink Campaign through the American Cancer Society in memory of family members and in honor of his friend and NCBCE colleague, Caroline Sullivan.

He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Elon University and is a graduate of the Executive Development Institute program at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Dr. Jenni Harris**

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Dr. Jenni Harris is the Executive Director of Business Services at the NC Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce Solutions. She is a senior level strategist and advisor who provides strong vision and leadership for the state's alignment of economic and workforce development. She also oversees the management of federally regulated and funded programs such as Rapid Response, Work Opportunity Tax Credits, and Business Edge – a new layoff-aversion initiative to help keep North Carolina businesses from closure. Her experience in existing industry retention and expansion and in entrepreneurship lends itself to her current role.

Her collaborative leadership has resulted in the development and nurturing of partnership opportunities with state organizations including the state's economic developers, the NC Community College System, the Small Business and Technology Development Center, NCSU's Industry Expansion Solutions program, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Jenni received her Bachelor of Arts in Professional and Technical Writing and Public and Media Relations from UNC Wilmington and graduated Summa Cum Laude from NC Central University with her Master's in Public Administration with an emphasis in economic policy and organizational management. She received her doctorate in Public Policy and Administration from West Chester University, where her research allowed her to examine the role of public Historically Black Colleges and Universities in economic development and community engagement.

Jenni is from Wilmington, NC, where she lives with her husband and two sons.

**Ms. Jennifer Lantz**

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Jennifer Lantz has served as executive director of the Wilson Economic Development Council and as corporate secretary for Wilson County Properties, Inc., since 1989. She is a graduate of the University of Richmond, with a degree in political science and urban studies with a concentration in economics.

Jennifer is deeply engaged in her community, having served on many boards and in many volunteer roles. She is currently a member of the Wilson 20/20 Board of Directors and Executive Committee and on the Research Triangle Regional Partnership Board of Directors. She has been honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and with the Mary Jo Hanover Award from the Industrial Asset Management Council.

Jennifer is widowed and has two daughters.

**Mr. Thomas Hall**

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Tom has nearly three decades of executive experience in the consumer goods industry with large firms such as P&G and Beierdorf AG and startups such as Lansinoh Labs, where he served as president. At those firms, he was instrumental in developing and commercializing a number of major innovations including Crest Complete, Aleve, and a range of advanced personal care products. He was also instrumental in several joint ventures and acquisitions including the Syntex-P&G joint venture to launch Aleve, Beiersdorf's acquisition of the consumer division of Kendall Healthcare, and the joint venture between Beiersdorf and Smith & Nephew. In 2002, Tom founded Brandworks Global, an innovative consumer goods company, and developed several brands in the lotion (English Royal Jelly), disaster preparedness (Safehome and Neighborlink), and flotation device categories (Floatsafe Floties).

In 2008, he sold the Brandworks consumer businesses to focus on consulting and teaching in innovation engineering, strategy, and acquisition integration. In 2012, Tom led the post-acquisition integration and strategic development in Texas of the oldest sustainable shrimp farm in the US. On his return to Boston in 2013, Tom became Executive Director of the Hult International Business School to lead a two-year \$18 million expansion of the Boston Campus. In 2016, he became Executive Director of the Thomas Family Center for Entrepreneurship and Incubator to lead the buildout and development of the 20,000 sqft facility at UNC Pembroke.

Tom has extensive global experience developing businesses throughout Asia and Europe, expatriating to Japan and Greece, and serving in the US Navy. He received his BA in Chinese Studies/History from Cornell University in 1984 and an MBA from Georgetown University in 1990. Tom has taught global strategy and innovation at several universities in Boston and Dubai, including Northeastern, Emmanuel, and Hult. He has mentored start-ups for years with the Boston-based incubator MassChallenge and the Hult Prize, the largest social entrepreneurship competition in the world. He enjoys wreck diving and is the author of "TW Lawson – Fate of the World's Only Seven Masted Schooner" and the recently published "Shipwrecks of Massachusetts Bay."

**Ms. Misty Herget**

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LNC Class XXII

Misty Herget is the senior director of programs at the Rural Center. In her role, she oversees leadership development and community engagement programs including the Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI), Homegrown Leaders regional leadership training program, Regional Leadership and Capacity Building program, and the regional food systems work. Prior to joining the Rural Center 13 years ago, she held positions in educational research and human services. She received her bachelor's in social work and master's in public administration from North Carolina State University. Misty is a graduate of Leadership NC Class XXII.

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