



Leadership North Carolina Class XXVI

Education Session
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Greensboro

Speaker Directory

Mr. Chip Hagan

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LNC Founding and Lifetime Board Member
LNC Class I Alumnus

Chip Hagan is a founding partner of Hagan Barrett PLLC. He has an eclectic group of clients encompassing a wide range of business endeavors, both well established and just starting out. Chip helps each achieve its business goals by anticipating and effectively solving legal issues that inevitably occur in today's complicated and ever-evolving business environment. His experience is invaluable in providing the best solution at the most opportune time.

Chip's father was an exceptional trial lawyer, and it was while Chip was in the Navy that he realized that he enjoyed being able to advise others on legal issues. After four years of serving his country, he attended Wake Forest Law School, and there served as Editor in Chief of the Wake Forest Law Review. Upon graduation, he joined his father in the firm his father had founded. After several years of assisting in litigation matters, he shifted his focus towards assisting businesses as they were formed and grew. This business focus led him to working with foreign companies seeking to do business in the United States, and this international area still accounts for a considerable portion of his practice. Chip also advises family businesses that are facing the challenges of succession planning.

Chip has been extremely active in organizations in his community, having served as Chairman of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and having helped found Leadership North Carolina, a statewide leadership development organization for which he served as Chairman for five years. For the last several years he has served as the Co-Chair of the Piedmont Angel Network, an organization that seeks to provide funding for early stage entrepreneurs. That organization has provided over \$12,000,000 in funding to entrepreneurs and created jobs and economic growth for our economy. Chip and his wife, former US Senator Kay Hagan, have three grown children. One daughter is a geologist, their son is in medical school, and their youngest daughter is a banker. The youngest daughter and her husband have given them a grandson, and their oldest daughter and her husband have given them a granddaughter. Chip is an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing in his downtime.

Dr. Phyllis Dawkins

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Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, a woman with extensive higher education experience who is adept at the inner-workings of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and of HBCUs, became the Eighteenth President of Bennett College on July 5, 2017. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Dawkins served as Interim President at Bennett for just under a year. She arrived at Bennett in November 2015 as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Before assuming Bennett's top administrative post, Dr. Dawkins worked at Cheyney University in Cheyney, PA, Dillard University in New Orleans, and at her alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. She assumed critical responsibilities at those institutions to ensure successful reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC for JCSU and Dillard and by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) for Cheyney.

In 2018, Dr. Dawkins was appointed by President Donald J. Trump to serve on the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Additionally, Dr. Dawkins is a member of: the Executive Committee of North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities (NCICU); the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce's Board; the Bennett College Foster Care Advisory Board; the Board of Directors of the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church; the Bennett College Career Corporate Advisory Board; UNCF Presidents' Advisory Board; and the Presidents' Advisory Board of the United Methodist Church's Black College Fund. Moreover, Dr. Dawkins is Co-founder of the HBCU Faculty Development Network and a former past President of the Professional and Organizational Development Network (POD.)

Dr. Dawkins is an accomplished writer whose academic research has been published in various journals and periodicals. In addition, she wrote or co-wrote grants totaling more than \$30 million. Among her numerous awards, in 2018 Dr. Dawkins was recognized as one of the Top 50 Most Influential African-Americans in the Piedmont Triad by Black Business Ink Magazine during the 2018 State of Black North Carolina Conference. In 2016, she was recognized as an Outstanding JCSU Alumni Woman. Dr. Dawkins is a member of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars and she holds membership in the American Association of University Women.

Dr. Dawkins received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. She received her Master of Arts from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. She received her Bachelor of Science from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. She is married to Bobby G. Dawkins, Ph.D., and they have two adult daughters: Malia Dawkins Jennings (Derek), M.A., an actress/writer/producer and an Account Manager for NCompass International; and Demi Dawkins, M.D., who is in a neurosurgery residency at the University of Wisconsin.

Ms. Brenda Berg

Chief Executive Officer

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LNC Class XXII Alumna

Brenda's passion for education stems from her own experience as a first-generation college graduate. With two children in North Carolina public schools, she is driven by the belief that every child should have access to a great education.

Brenda is the President and Chief Executive Officer of BEST NC (Business for Educational Success and Transformation in North Carolina), a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of over 100 business leaders with a focus on making education in North Carolina the best in the nation. Through policy and advocacy, BEST NC strives to ensure that every student in North Carolina will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to succeed in a competitive global economy.

Brenda leads the overall vision, strategy, and operations of BEST NC. With over twenty-five years of experience as a business owner, public policy professional, and education advocate, she leverages her broad expertise to be a business-to-education bridge for their work. She serves on various boards and other entities, including the NC Rural Center, Kenan Fellows Program, Institute of Political Leadership (IOPL), and NC Community College Foundation. Brenda has a B.A. in Economics and a Master's degree in Public Policy, both from Georgetown University.

Ms. Cindy Watkins

President

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Cindy Watkins is the President of the North Carolina Partnership for Children. She brings nearly 30 years of experience in working with children, families, and communities to focus energy and attention on improving the lives of young children.

Ms. Watkins has over 19 years of non-profit management experience, serving as the Executive Director of the Person County Partnership, the Alamance Partnership for Children, and the Guilford Partnership for Children. She holds a Master's Degree in Counselor Education from Lynchburg College and Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Mary Washington with a major in Psychology. She also spent 12 years working in the public school system in Virginia and North Carolina both as a teacher and a counselor. Ms. Watkins currently serves on the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Board Member of NC Early Education Coalition, and B-3 Interagency Council.

Ms. Watkins has focused her career on strengthening and building the capacity of local communities so they may better support and serve their youngest children and families.

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.

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A passionate advocate for providing high quality education to all children, Dr. Sharon L. Contreras began her career as a high school English teacher before serving as a principal, area superintendent, and assistant superintendent in Rockford, IL. She went on to serve as the Chief Academic Officer for Clayton County Public Schools in Georgia, as well as Providence Public Schools in Rhode Island.

Through the development of high-performing teams, Dr. Contreras' work in those school districts resulted in improved graduation rates and access to rigorous academic programs for all students. In 2011, she became the first woman of color in New York State's history to serve as superintendent in one of the state's largest districts when she took over the Syracuse City School District (SCSD).

Dr. Contreras, again, made history in August 2016 when she was sworn-in as the first woman and first Latina Superintendent of Guilford County Schools. From the moment she took on her new role, Dr. Contreras has been singularly focused on one goal – to improve the life outcomes for every single student.

During the course of her nearly 30 year career, Dr. Contreras has won countless awards for her civic work and leadership including: YWCA Champion of Opportunity Award; The Network Journal's 25 Influential Women in Business Award; Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance Drum Major for Social Justice Award; Nosotros Radio Latina of the Year; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Fortitude Award; Southwest Community Health Center Leadership Award, Upstate University Hospital Community Leader Award; and the NAACP Freedom Award. She is also a proud and active member of The Links Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Dr. Contreras was raised in Uniondale, NY, by her parents James and Elizabeth Contreras with her nine brothers and sisters, all of whom supported and encouraged education as a means of gaining the tools necessary to lead a life of extraordinary service to others. She earned degrees from Binghamton University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and now spends her days cultivating a remarkable legacy – leaving every school district better than it was when she arrived.

Mrs. Thyais Maxwell

Principal

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Born and raised in Snow Hill, NC, Mrs. Maxwell attended Bennett College for Women where she graduated with a B.A. in Psychology. She pursued her graduate work at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to obtain her Exceptional Children's certification and later her Master's Degree in School Administration. She is currently attending High Point University, where she is pursuing her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.

Over the past 18 years she has worked serving in some of the county's highest impacted schools in multiple roles from EC teacher to Curriculum Facilitator. She has also served on the Judge Manning Team as an Instructional Coach for NCDPI, an Assistant Principal of Instruction, and a Principal over the last nine years. In each school that she has served, they have either met or exceed growth yearly under her leadership. Mrs. Maxwell currently serves as the proud principal of the Middle College at Bennett where her graduating class of 15 earned 3.6 million dollars in scholarships and accrued over 3000 hours of community service and 4 students were offered full rides to college.

Mrs. Maxwell has a strong belief in her faith and believes that her steps are ordered. She leads with dignity, respect, and the determination for each student to experience positive academic outcomes. She is a wife, mother of a senior and a sophomore, and has a furry Poodle, Koalie.

Mr. Peter Hans

President

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Peter Hans became the ninth president of the North Carolina Community College System on May 1, 2018, bringing decades of leadership experience in higher education policy and governance to the position. Hans has been a leader on North Carolina's two governing boards for higher education. The NC House of Representatives elected him to a six-year term on the State Board of Community Colleges in 1997. He served as vice chair of the board and chair of the Policy Committee. The NC Senate elected Hans to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in 2003, 2007 and 2011, and he led that board as chair from 2012-2014. He was honored by UNC-Wilmington in 2014 for his role in improving collaboration between the community college and university systems.

From 2016-2018, Hans advised UNC System President Margaret Spellings on issues such as technology, health care, strategic planning, and K-12 education. Hans's career also includes serving as senior policy adviser to U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth (1995-1999) and then-U.S. Rep. Richard Burr (1999-2001). He also advised Elizabeth Dole during her successful run for U.S. Senate in 2001-2002.

Later, Hans and former Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker built a government relations practice at a series of regional law firms, most recently Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. The team counseled private-sector companies on public affairs, including clients in the health care, technology, retail and manufacturing sectors.

Hans grew up in Southport on the coast and Hendersonville in the mountains. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master of Liberal Arts in Extension Studies from Harvard University. He is a trustee of Rex Hospital and a member of the International Advisory Board of public relations firm APCO Worldwide. He is a former board member for Urban Ministries of Wake County, where he co-chaired a \$5.5 million capital campaign.

Ms. Margaret Spellings

President

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Nationally known as an education thought leader and public policy expert, Spellings has led the UNC System into a new period of performance, affordability, and growth with a focus on improving economic mobility, ensuring accountability, and advancing the public good.

Since becoming president of the 17-institution UNC System on March 1, 2016, Spellings has overseen a strategic planning process that won unanimous approval from the UNC Board of Governors for its roadmap titled Higher Expectations. That roadmap has led to unprecedented performance agreements at each UNC System institution which outline measurable goals and metrics to advance key UNC System priorities like improving graduation rates, reducing achievement gaps, and ensuring access for students of every background.

During her time as president, Spellings has worked with the Board of Governors and the NC General Assembly to ensure college affordability by putting a lid on tuition and implementing NC Promise, the state's bold initiative to reduce tuition at three institutions to just \$500 per semester for in-state students. With renewed trust from the General Assembly, the UNC System received its strongest budget in more than a decade, and with the confidence of NC voters, the UNC System has moved forward the ConnectNC Bond, which is enabling transformational progress at each of the 17 institutions.

Spellings brings to the UNC System extensive experience at the highest levels of the United States government. From 2005 to 2009, she served as the U.S. Secretary of Education, where she oversaw the creation of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, which shifted the national conversation around colleges and universities, and implemented the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), a national bipartisan initiative to provide greater accountability for public K-12 schools. From 2001 to 2005, she was Chief Domestic Policy Advisor at the White House for President George W. Bush.

Beyond her service at the federal level, Spellings served as President of the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, TX; as President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; and at the state-level in Texas politics. She served as a senior advisor to then-Governor Bush of Texas, as head of governmental and external relations for the Texas Association of School Boards, and in key positions at Austin Community College and with the Texas Legislature.

Spellings is a graduate of the University of Houston, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science. She also received an honorary doctorate and Distinguished Alumna Award from the university in 2006.

Dr. A. Hope Williams

President

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A. Hope Williams is in her 26th year as president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU), the state office of the 36 private, nonprofit colleges and universities in North Carolina. She works closely with the State of North Carolina and the federal government, and with the North Carolina public K-12 and higher education sectors to address education and related public policy and funding issues. She joined NCICU in 1986 and has served as president since 1992. Dr. Williams received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, an MPA from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was named a 2017 CEO of the Year by the Triangle Business Journal and is a member of the Governor's Education Cabinet and the boards of the Council of Independent Colleges, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Board, College Foundation, Inc., MCNC, the National Advisory Board of the Institute for Emerging Issues, the North Carolina Aquarium Society, the NCWorks Commission, and Communities in Schools of North Carolina.

LNC Class XXII Alumna and LNC Board Chair

Ms. Kristy Teskey

Executive Director
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Kristy Teskey joined myFutureNC in the fall of 2017 as the executive director to lead the initiative's statewide education planning efforts. She is a proven leader in providing innovative and strategic solutions in education. For more than 25 years, she has worked on vital issues across the education and workforce development continuum, ranging from early childhood development to postsecondary access and completion.

Kristy was the inaugural executive director of the John M. Belk Endowment, a private family foundation partnering with results-oriented postsecondary institutions and programs in North Carolina. She led the organization's strategic vision to create systemic change for all North Carolina students to access and complete postsecondary education and move into family-sustaining employment.

Before joining the Endowment, Kristy served as senior vice president for the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, where she helped create and lead the national philanthropic strategies focused on education opportunities and pathways into the workforce. Prior to that, Kristy was vice president of community impact for children and youth at the United Way of the Greater Triangle and held leadership roles in youth and fund development at the YMCA of the Triangle in Raleigh, NC.

Kristy has a Masters in Public Administration from University of North Carolina at Charlotte and earned her undergraduate degree at North Carolina State University in English Education. She lives in Charlotte and is currently working on her doctorate in education from Northeastern University.

Ms. Mebane Rash

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Mebane Rash is the CEO and editor-in-chief of EducationNC and the NC Center for Public Policy Research. Mebane attended Irwin Elementary, First Ward Elementary, McClintock Middle, and East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 1990 and the UNC School of Law in 1993. At the UNC School of Law, she was a member of the North Carolina Law Review. She has been a member of the North Carolina State Bar since 1993, and she is admitted to practice in both the state and federal court systems.

After law school, Mebane worked for Carolina Legal Assistance, a mental disability law project, before joining the nonpartisan NC Center for Public Policy Research as the policy analyst from 1994-98 and the director of law and policy from 2006-14. From 1995-99, she was an adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law. She was an attorney for the ACLU-NC from 1998-99.

She is the president of the Board of Trustees of the national Governmental Research Association. In 2018, she was invited to attend the Aspen Executive Seminar on Leadership, Values, and the Good Society. In 2013, she was one of 60 women from 25 countries invited to spend a week at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government to study Women and Power: Leadership in the New World. She served on the inaugural Z. Smith Reynolds Leadership Council. In 1997, she was selected to be a William C. Friday Fellow for Human Relations, a fellowship for emerging leaders across North Carolina. She has won national awards from the Governmental Research Association for most distinguished research, outstanding policy achievement, and most effective education of the public.

Dr. Ellen Essick

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Ellen Essick is the section chief for the NC Healthy Schools Section at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Before coming to DPI she served as the National School Employee Wellness manager for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Before joining the Alliance she was on the faculty at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Her research interests include eating disorders, women's issues, sexuality, and HIV/AIDS. She is an avid runner and has completed the Boston Marathon.

Mr. Kris Nordstrom

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Kris Nordstrom is a Senior Policy Analyst with the Education and Law Project. Prior to starting work with the Justice Center in April 2016, Kris spent nine years with the North Carolina General Assembly's nonpartisan Fiscal Research Division, where he provided budget analysis and information to all members of the General Assembly on public education issues. Kris holds a Master of Public Policy from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University and a BA in Economics from Wake Forest University.

Ms. Becki Gray

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Becki Gray is Senior Vice President at the John Locke Foundation. She provides information, consultation, and publications to elected officials, government staff, and other decision makers involved in the state public-policy process.

Gray taps her experience in the legal field, at the North Carolina General Assembly, and as a lobbyist in the private sector as well as the full resources and staff of JLF to fulfill requests for information and analysis from policymakers. She offers commentary on television and radio shows across North Carolina and is a regular panelist on NCSpin. Gray writes a monthly column for Carolina Journal and her op-eds have been published in newspapers across the state. She frequently speaks to civic and political groups about public policy and legislative issues.

She earned an Art degree at Queens College in Charlotte and a Paralegal Certificate from Meredith College and has completed graduate work at UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Greensboro.

Gray is a member of the first class of the John Locke Foundation's E.A. Morris Fellows, a statewide leadership program. She serves on the North Carolina Museum of Art's Board of Trustees.

Ms. Alison Harris Welcher

Leader in Residence

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Alison Harris Welcher is an educator and thought leader committed to system-level reforms in preK-12 education. Alison previously served as a teacher, school leader, and district administrator in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. As a school leader, she led a middle school transformation, launching one of the nation's first Opportunity Culture sites. This led to local, regional, and national recognition including a profile with "Getting Smart: 100 Schools Worth Visiting" (2014) and the book, *Breakthrough Principals: A Step by Step Guide to Building Stronger Schools* (2016), which inspires principals across the country to value and invest in teacher leadership.

Alison's commitment to education began in grade school as she experienced the effects of educational inequities firsthand in a desegregated school system. As early as middle school, Alison was intrigued and distraught by the varying experiences she and her peers had based on their socioeconomic status and race. As a result of her experiences, she has a staunch belief that all students deserve access to a quality education and educators. She is committed to supporting educators and communities to design systems that work for all children. Most recently, Alison served as the Fellowship Director for the Reimagining Integration: Diverse and Equitable Schools (RIDES) project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where she led the development a multi-year fellowship program that will prepare leaders to drive schools, school systems, and partnering organizations towards racial and economic diversity to achieve equitable outcomes for all kids.

She holds a B.A. in English from Spelman College and an Ed.M. in Risk and Prevention in Adolescents from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Alison is currently a doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the Educational Leadership (EdLD) program and is completing her 3rd-year residency with Education First. She resides in Charlotte, NC, with her husband.

Mr. James Bell

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James Bell is a husband, father, scuba diver, and lifelong educator. Currently James is the Professional Learning Coordinator for North Carolina Virtual Public Schools. His passion for online and blended learning and ensuring that all of North Carolina's students have the best options available makes this the perfect job for James.

As a lifelong learner, James has earned a Bachelor's in English from NC Wesleyan College, a Masters in Education from East Carolina University, and a Masters in School Administration from Elizabeth City State University.

Before joining North Carolina Virtual Public Schools, James was a middle and high school English and Social Studies teacher in both Halifax and Chowan counties. In 2007, he was named the North Carolina Teacher of the Year and enjoyed representing North Carolina Education at a local, state, and national level. James also serves as President of the North Carolina National Network of State Teachers of the Year, where he leads a team of dedicated Teachers of the Year to advocate for all of North Carolina's students and teachers.

James grew up in Arizona and spent his high school and college years in Las Vegas, NV. He moved to North Carolina and began working as a journalist. Shortly thereafter, he transitioned into teaching and fell in love with it. He lived in Edenton, NC, until 2016 when he and his family relocated to Hampstead, NC. In his free time, James enjoys diving, volunteering at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, and spending time with his family.

Ms. Melody Chalmers

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Melody Chalmers is a native of Fayetteville, NC. She earned a bachelor's degree in English Education from North Carolina A&T State University and a master's degree in school administration from Fayetteville State University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at North Carolina State University. She began her career in education in 1998 as an English teacher at E. E. Smith High School and she is currently the Assistant Superintendent for District Transformation and Strategic Initiatives for Cumberland County Schools.

In 2016, she was selected as the 2016 Wells Fargo NC Principal of the Year. During her tenure as NC Principal of the Year, she served as an advisor to the State Board of Education, participated in the Education Policy Fellowship Program sponsored by the Public School Forum of NC, and traveled across the state of North Carolina serving as an advocate for students, teachers, and school administrators.

Melody has been recognized in her community by The Fayetteville Observer as one of Fayetteville's Top 20 Community Leaders under 40 in 2006 and 2012. In 2016, she was awarded the Person of the Year Award by the Beta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Education Trailblazer Award by Lewis Chapel Missionary

Baptist Church. In 2017, she was presented with the NC A&T State University Alumni Achievement Award at Spring Convocation. She has served on the Board of Directors for the NC Principal and Assistant Principal Association and was selected to serve on the Governor's Commission on Access to a Sound, Basic Education. Her personal and professional philosophy, "No Excuses, Just Results".

Ms. Jennifer Bennett

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Ms. Bennett started her journey into School Finance in 1994 when she joined the Department of Public Instruction, moving to North Carolina from San Diego, CA. Ms. Bennett spent 8 years at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), ending her work there as the Director for School Business Services. For the next 8 years she worked at Durham Public Schools (DPS), where she was the Finance Officer and Fiscal Analyst and learned the "reality of school finance."

Ms. Bennett left DPS and spent 6 years doing school business consulting throughout NC, VA, and SC helping school districts create more efficient business operations and helping them find more effective ways to use their resources. She joined Vance County Schools in June 2016 as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance and has enjoyed helping a small district with limited resources realize its potential.

Prior to working in North Carolina Ms. Bennett spent time in NYC/Newark working for Prudential and in Southern California helping smaller start-up companies and tuna/salt brokers with their finances. She has been happily married for 26 years and has one wonderful daughter studying film at UNC Wilmington.

Dr. Dudley Flood

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Dr. Dudley E. Flood was born and reared in Winton, NC. Since 1970, Dr. Flood has lived in Raleigh, NC. He began his career as a teacher of math, science, and English at the eighth-grade level. He later taught high school social studies and coached high school basketball and football. He served for three years as principal of a school covering grades 1 - 12 before joining the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as a specialist in school desegregation and race relations.

During his 21 years of service with the Department of Public Instruction, he earned promotions first to assistant and then associate state superintendent. After retiring from Public Instruction on December 31, 1990, he served for 5 years and 3 months as executive director of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators. Since April 1996, he has been a lecturer and consultant to groups throughout the country and abroad. He has also been a visiting professor at Meredith College and at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and he has taught in the Principals Executive Program at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Flood earned a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University, a master's degree in educational administration from East Carolina University, and a doctorate degree from Duke University. He has studied further at Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Hampton University.

Dr. Flood has spoken in all 100 of North Carolina's counties. He has spoken or conducted workshops in 48 of the 50 United States, in Bermuda, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Germany. His writings have been published in more than 25 journals, and he has authored three books.

Dr. Flood has received more than 350 awards for civic service. He has been presented the *Order of the Longleaf Pine Award* (North Carolina's highest civic award) by three different governors—Governor James G. Martin, Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., and Governor Mike Easley. He has received the Outstanding Alumni Award from both North Carolina Central University and East Carolina University, and he has received the Doctorate of Humane Letters from both North Carolina Central University and the University of North Carolina in Asheville.

Dr. Flood served for twelve years on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He currently serves on the NC Minority Cancer Awareness Action Team; the Public School Forum of North Carolina Board; the Wake Education Partnership Leadership Council; the UNC Press Advancement Council, and on several other boards and committees. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He is also a member of Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh, where he serves as Sunday School teacher. For fifty-five years, he was married to the late Barbara Thomas Flood, whose inspiration he credits with any success that he has experienced.

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