



Leadership North Carolina Class XXVII

Education Session
December 3-5, 2019
Greensboro

Speaker Directory

Ms. Cassandra Williams

Educational Program Coordinator and Staff Trainer
International Civil Rights Center and Museum
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Cassandra Lowe Williams is an educational coordinator, docent, and tour guide trainer at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. She is a retired theatre and English teacher from Guilford County Schools.

Ms. Brenda Berg

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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 who have attended North Carolina public schools, she is driven by the belief that every child should have access to a great education.

Brenda is the President & CEO of BEST NC (Business for Educational Success and Transformation NC), 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.

With over twenty-five years of experience as a business owner, public policy professional, and education advocate, Brenda leads the overall BEST NC vision, strategy, and operations while leveraging her expertise to be the business-

to-education bridge in BEST NC's work to transform education in North Carolina. In 2002, she founded Scandinavian Child, a baby products manufacturing and importing business. Prior to founding her business, she had almost ten years of public policy experience in both education and transportation policy and programs. She serves on various boards and education organizations, including the Kenan Fellows Program, the Institute for Political Leadership, and the NC Community College Foundation. Brenda has a B.A. in Economics and a Master's degree in Public Policy, both from Georgetown University.

Ms. Mandy Ableidinger

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Mandy serves as NCECF's Policy and Practice Leader. She convenes NC's early childhood stakeholders to collaborate on a world-class birth to eight early childhood system for North Carolina through her work leading the Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative and facilitating state and local coordination using the Every Student Succeeds Act. She builds public will for improving birth through eight policy and practice through curating an online Birth-to-Eight Policy Center to serve as a reliable source of information on early childhood and communicating the impact of state and federal policy on NC's young children and their families.

Mandy has more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit and public sectors, focused on children's issues. Prior to joining NCECF, she was an independent contractor in the early childhood, child welfare, and child mental health fields, including helping to guide the first year of the Pathways Initiative for NCECF. She has previously served as the Director of Policy and Budget Analysis at Action for Children NC (now NC Child), and as a fiscal policy analyst for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Morocco and spent two years there working on education issues with the UN World Food Programme, teaching English, and learning Moroccan Arabic.

Mandy holds a B.A. from Duke University and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Princeton University. She lives in Raleigh with her husband and three children.

Dr. Benjamin D. Reese Jr.

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Adjunct Faculty, Duke University School of Medicine
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LNC Class VI Alumnus

Dr. Reese is a clinical psychologist with 50 years of experience in diversity, equity, and inclusion. In May, he stepped down as VP of the Office for Institutional Equity at Duke University, but he retains three adjunct faculty positions. In his VP role, he was responsible for diversity, equity, and inclusion; affirmative action; harassment & discrimination prevention; and complaint handling; and Title X for the university and health system of three hospitals and clinics. Before his 23 year career at Duke University, he was in New York City, where he directed a large mental health center, was the ombudsperson for the Rockefeller Foundation, was executive director of the Center for the Study of Culture & Ethnicity, was a clinician in private practice, and was a diversity & inclusion organizational consultant.

Currently, he is CEO of BenReese, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy, education, and training. Dr. Reese is a national and internationally regarded speaker, workshop facilitator, and consultant in the areas of diversity & inclusion, with a specialty in implicit bias education. He has consulted to more than 100 organizations across the United States and abroad. In 2016, the North Carolina Business Journal awarded him their Lifetime Diversity Achievement Award in recognition of 50 years of leadership in the areas of race relations, diversity, and inclusion.

Ms. Allison Goff

Policy Analyst
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Allison Goff is a Policy Analyst at The Hunt Institute where she works to increase the capacity of North Carolina policymakers to lead on education. Her work spans the education continuum from birth through postsecondary education and includes research, policy analysis, and planning and development of convenings for policymakers.

Prior to joining The Hunt Institute, Allison worked as a speech-language pathologist serving in public, charter, and specialized schools in North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC. Additionally, she has served at the US Department of Education and as a Resident Tutor at Harvard University. Allison is originally from Concord, NC, and attended North Carolina State University where she earned a degree in Communication and was a John T. Caldwell Fellow. She continued her studies at Syracuse University, earning a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology.

Lee Ellen Harmer

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Lee Ellen Harmer is a member of the Social Innovation team at SAS, focused on communications and partnerships in Education. While focused heavily on global sustainability issues, the Social Innovation team also works to support the next generation of innovators, introducing young learners to data, how it can be used to better understand global issues, and how to turn those insights into action in their own communities.

Lee Ellen joined SAS in 2008 to support the usage and adoption of SAS's educational products and has also managed sales of traditional SAS software for teaching and research in higher education. Much of her career has been in sales and marketing to the Education industry, including experience in enterprise software sales to the industry for Red Hat (a vendor of Linux and open source technology).

Lee Ellen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business with a marketing concentration from Wake Forest University (Winston Salem, NC).

Ms. Julie Paige Pittman

Teacher, Rutherford County Schools
2018 Western Region Teacher of the Year
NC Education Outreach Manager, No Kid Hungry (Teacher on Loan for 2019-2020)
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Julie Paige Pittman was called to be an educator and community builder. She is a proud graduate of Johnston County Public Schools and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Speech Communications, as well as a Master of Arts in Communication Studies, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She held teaching positions at UNC-CH, Rutgers University, New York University, and Central Piedmont Community College, as well as worked in professional theater while in NYC. In 2003, she joined Rutherford County Schools as a high school English teacher at R-S Central High School and was selected as the 2018 NC Western Region Teacher of the Year. This year, she is a Teacher on Loan from RCS to No Kid Hungry to be the Education Outreach Manager in North Carolina.

Along with Freebird McKinney, her colleague and co-founder of a new organization EdLeadNC, Julie helps direct Teacher Leadership Academies in Rutherford County Schools and Durham Public Schools. She thrives on motivating students to find their own voices and roles as citizens of this world, as well as inspiring fellow teachers to grow their skills by expanding their classrooms into the global community. Ultimately, she believes each of us shares a role in supporting and nurturing all students, and thus shaping our collective future.

Dr. Theresa Melenas

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Dr. Theresa Melenas is a middle school principal at Union Middle School and AVID District Director for Sampson County Schools. She also is an adjunct faculty member in the School of Education at American Public University. She has over 23 years of experience in both K-12 and higher education, serving as a middle school teacher, lead instructional coach at the high school level, and elementary assistant principal. She earned her undergraduate degree at University of Arizona with a major in History and a minor in German. Immediately after graduation, she obtained a post-baccalaureate degree in Secondary Education from the University of Phoenix, where she also earned an MA in Curriculum and Instruction. In 2009, she completed her doctoral studies from the University of Phoenix with an Ed.D. in Leadership and Administration. She continued her education with post-graduate studies at the University of North Carolina - Wilmington in school administration.

As an educator, Dr. Melenas is dedicated to supporting schools, teachers, and students in their journey for continuous improvement. She believes that regardless of their socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, or geography all students deserve to have equitable access to a quality education. As a means to this end, she champions using predictive analysis and data-informed instruction to increase student achievement and positive student outcomes. This passion has led her to speak at a number of conferences and summits.

Dr. Nicole Hurd

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Nicole F. Hurd, Ph.D., is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of College Advising Corps (CAC). Under her leadership, CAC has grown into the largest college access program in the country and received many accolades for its innovative work. Some of these honors include selection as one of eight nonprofits highlighted in The University of Pennsylvania's 2018 annual High Impact Giving Guide, which targets organizations working with society's most vulnerable people, and the 2012 National Service Impact Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service. College Advising Corps has also been the recipient of major investments including a \$20 million gift from the Ballmer Group to launch CAC's Goal 2025, an initiative to enroll 1 million students in college by 2025; a multimillion dollar gift in 2015 from Bloomberg Philanthropies to launch CAC's virtual advising work as part of the College Point Initiative; and two \$10 million investments from The John M. Belk Endowment, the first of which was announced at the 2014 White House College Opportunity Summit.

Recognized nationally as a leader in the field of college access and success, Dr. Hurd was honored as a White House Champion of Change for College Opportunity in September 2016 and was selected as a Featured Innovator by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for leading bold and creative efforts to eliminate disparities in college access and success. In 2018, Dr. Hurd received the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters from Franklin & Marshall College and was recognized as one of Time Magazine's 2018 Top 31 People Who Are Changing the South. Furthermore, she was named to Washington Monthly's 2016 list of the most innovative people in higher education and the Chronicle of Higher Education's 2014 Influence List.

Prior to launching College Advising Corps, Nicole served as an Assistant Dean and Director of the Center for Undergraduate Excellence at the University of Virginia. While there, she founded the College Guide Program that was the precursor to College Advising Corps. The College Guide Program received national attention and a \$10 million grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to expand into 10 additional states. Because of the growth and success of College Guides, Nicole was awarded the Governor of Virginia's Award for Volunteerism and Community Service in 2007.

While at the University of Virginia, Nicole taught in the Department of Religious Studies, worked with successful Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Fulbright, and Truman Scholar candidates, and led the first university-wide Office of Undergraduate Research. Nicole's work has resulted in the following honors: 2014 Honorary Hesburgh Yusko Scholar, 2013 Excellence in Education Award given by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2012 Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Public Service, 2012 Executive Leadership Award of Excellence from the National College Access Network, 2011 American Marshall Memorial Fellow, and 2007 Faculty Award Recipient for the University of Virginia's Raven Society.

The co-author of "Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do," a publication of the US Department of Education, Nicole holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia, a Master's degree from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy at the University of Virginia and lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina (and airplanes) with her husband and their two children.

Tatyana Green

College Adviser

Carolina College Advising Corps

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Tatyana Green is a second-year college adviser serving at Ben L. Smith High School in Greensboro, NC. She mostly grew up in Winston-Salem, NC, and she attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her Bachelor's in African/African-American & Diaspora Studies with a minor in Education. Having dealt with the difficulty of navigating college as a first-generation college student, Tatyana joined the Advising Corps to help ensure that young people had the access and support they needed to pursue their life and educational endeavors. After finishing up the school year with Carolina College Advising Corps, Tatyana plans to attend graduate school to pursue her Master's in Social Work with hopes to continue supporting adolescents through clinical mental health services and nonprofit work.

Reem Ahmed

College Adviser

Carolina College Advising Corps

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Reem Ahmed is a second-year college adviser serving at High Point Central High School. She grew up in Greensboro, NC, and went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned her bachelor's in psychology. During her time at Carolina she worked in the Office of Undergraduate Retention where she began learning about ways to support students from a variety of backgrounds. This created the spark that lead her to join the Advising Corps. Following her service term, Reem hopes to stay within the nonprofit sector and find other ways to support young people on their journeys through education.

Dr. Dudley Flood

Retired School Administrator

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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.

Ms. Andrea Poole

LNC Class XXII Alumna

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Andrea Poole joined the North Carolina Community College System in April of 2019 as its first deputy chief of staff, bringing nearly 20 years of state government and policy experience to the position.

Prior to joining the NC Community College System, Andrea worked from 2013 to 2019 at the University of North Carolina System, first as the associate vice president of finance and university budgets and more recently as the Secretary of the University. From 2005-2013, Andrea was a member of the Fiscal Research Division of the North Carolina General Assembly, providing nonpartisan fiscal and policy analysis to legislators on higher education and health and human services topics. Her career also includes work as a policy analyst for the NC Housing Finance Agency and as an AmeriCorps VISTA.

Andrea earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Duke University and a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina State University. She is an alumna of Leadership North Carolina Class XXII.

Dr. Andrew Kelly

Senior Vice President for Strategy and Policy
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Dr. Andrew Kelly serves as the Senior Vice President for Strategy and Policy. Kelly leads the newly formed Division of Strategy and Policy, which is charged with enhancing and furthering the UNC system's strategic goals. In addition to serving as a higher-education policy expert to the President and the Board of Governors, he is tasked with

developing a robust performance measurement system and proactively identifying new initiatives to promote system goals.

Prior to joining UNC, Kelly was a resident scholar in education policy studies and the Founding Director of the Center on Higher Education Reform at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). In his roles, Dr. Kelly conducted research on college affordability innovation in higher education and federal and state policy and advised members of congress, state policy makers, and presidential candidates. Kelly has published work in academic journals and in popular outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Week, The Atlantic, and National Review.

Dr. Kelly is a summa cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College, where he earned a degree in history. He holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Peter Hans

President

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Peter Hans is the ninth president of the North Carolina Community College System.

He grew up in Southport on the coast and Hendersonville in the mountains. He earned degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and Harvard University.

Peter worked as senior policy advisor to three members of the United States Senate, and he counseled the private sector on public affairs at one of North Carolina's largest law firms.

He previously served as vice chair of the State Board of Community Colleges and chair of the UNC System Board of Governors. On May 1st, 2018 he became the 9th President of the North Carolina Community College System.

Dr. Pamela Senegal

President

Piedmont Community College

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Dr. Pamela Gibson Senegal is the current president of Piedmont Community College. She previously served as the vice president of Economic and Community Development at Central Carolina Community College. She brings 20+ years of higher education leadership, business experience, and community service to her position.

Senegal holds undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Spanish, a master's in Public Administration, and a doctorate in Adult and Community College Education, all from N.C. State University. She also completed a Training and Development certificate from UNC-C and the American Society for Training and Development. Senegal is a member of [UNC World View Council of Advisors](#).

Senegal has three sons, two of whom are Eagle Scouts and one who is a rising 6th grader at Southern Middle School, and she is active in her church.

Ms. Cecilia Holden

Alumna LNC Class XXIII

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Cecilia Holden will serve as the first-ever President & CEO for myFutureNC, a statewide initiative focused on educational attainment, starting in December 2019. The organization is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. In this role, Holden will advance the strategic direction and priorities for the organization; collaborate with cross-sector leaders; develop and drive policy that increases North Carolina's level of education attainment; and build the overall capacity of the organization.

Holden most recently held the position as the Director of Government and Community Affairs for the State Board of Education. In this capacity, she served as the principal contact and staff for the State Board of Education with state and federal education policy makers and stakeholders, including the NC General Assembly, the Governor's Office, NC state agencies, and the U.S. Congress.

Holden's career includes extensive public and private sector experience. Prior to joining the State Board of Education, she served as the Chief of Staff for the North Carolina Department of Commerce. In addition, her North Carolina public service includes serving as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and the Director of Networking Technologies for the Department of Public Instruction. She has a proven track record of establishing and implementing creative strategies to optimize operations, return on investments, and excellence in customer satisfaction.

Holden served as a middle manager with IBM and the Business Operations Manager for a registered investment advisory firm. During her years with IBM, Holden was a Team Excellence Award winner and an IBM Achievement Club recipient and was selected for the IBM Executive Fast Track program. She built a reputation for implementing high standards for customer service while she oversaw a worldwide network of technical support engineers.

Holden began her career working as a Community Detention Counselor with Wake County Juvenile Court. She later served as the Information Technology Implementation Manager with Wake County where she was responsible for the Public Safety and Criminal Justice information technology systems for which she received multiple National Association of Counties awards.

Holden holds a Master's in Business Administration from Duke University, a certificate in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina School of Government, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Business from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Holden is married to Tom Holden and they have a son and a daughter. They are members of Edenton Street United Methodist Church where Holden served on the Administrative Board and volunteers as a youth leader.

Dr. Harold Martin Sr.

Chancellor
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Dr. Harold Lee Martin Sr. was elected the 12th chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University on May 22, 2009, and formally began his tenure on June 8, 2009. Martin brought more than 30 years of transformative leadership experience in higher education to the role. He is the first alumnus to serve as the university's chief executive.

Martin's leadership has been distinguished by a focus on long-range strategic planning and tactical leadership that have dramatically improved North Carolina A&T's standing among the nation's land grant, doctoral research universities, as well as among historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). An institution recognized for its leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), NC A&T has expanded its focus on academic excellence to include all disciplines. Under Martin's leadership, it has become one of the nation's top producers of African American graduates in engineering, mathematics, statistics, agriculture, journalism, visual and performing arts, marketing and physical sciences.

Martin has also been instrumental in establishing and fostering strategic partnerships such as the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering at the Gateway University Research Park (South Campus) and playing a significant role in Opportunity Greensboro, the city's alliance between the seven colleges and universities and the business community that is intended to make Greensboro a national model for collaboration in knowledge-based economic development.

Before his election as chancellor of A&T, Martin served as senior vice president for academic affairs for the UNC system. He also served as the 11th chief administrator and seventh chancellor of Winston-Salem State University and in a number of administrative posts at A&T including vice chancellor for the Division of Academic Affairs, dean of the College of Engineering and chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

A proponent of community engagement, Martin lends himself to service on various boards including the American Council on Education, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Review Advisory Board, Research Triangle Institute, Piedmont Triad Regional Development Council, National Collegiate Athletic Association Limited-Resource Institutions Advisory Group.

In 2017, Martin was named America's most influential HBCU leader by HBCU Digest, which came on the heels of him being named one of the Triad Business Journal's 2016 Most Admired CEOs. In 2015, he was named to the EBONY Power 100 list. Martin is a member of Tau Beta Pi-The Engineering Honor Society, Eta Kappa Nu Association, The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

The Winston-Salem, NC, native received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from A&T and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He and his wife Davida, the former county attorney for Forsyth County, N.C., have two adult sons—Harold Jr., a graduate and former interim president of Morehouse College, as well as an alumnus of Harvard Business School and Yale Law School; and Walter, a graduate of Hampton University and the University of Maryland Dental School—and three grandchildren.

Rachel Richards

Student

North Carolina A&T State University

Rachel Richards was born in Kingston, Jamaica, but currently lives in Charlotte, NC. She is a biology student and Cheatham-White Scholar, aspiring for the pre-med track in the hopes to become more knowledgeable in the field of biology and medicine to be a better asset to the field of epidemiology, specifically in hospitals and healthcare. During her first year of college she presented research at Undergraduate Research Symposium and the 9th Annual Innovation Challenge and attended the GlaxoKlineSmith Women in STEM Conference. Rachel is also an undergraduate researcher in the Biology Lab of Professor Liesl Jeffers-Francis. Her research project focuses on Silver/Bacteriophage Resistance Antagonism in Escherichia Coli. She is an Honor's Ambassador, on the Chancellor's List, and was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society Spring of 2019. She won second place at the Innovation Challenge and participated in the 2019 Fall and Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. During the summer 2019 session, she participated in her first internship, Building Diversity in Biomedical Summer Research Program at Tufts University. Rachel plans to use her Bachelor's in Biology to educate more people on preventative health measures. For Rachel, this is the essence of being a Cheatham White Scholar: utilizing knowledge and resources to produce new ideas and guidelines to improve the quality of life for all persons, regardless of their socioeconomic status, race, gender, religions, etc. Her future plan for her life is to build up the healthcare systems of developing nations, starting with Jamaica.

Milosh McAdoo

Student

North Carolina A&T State University

Milosh McAdoo is from Efland, NC. He is a freshman majoring in animal science. Milosh is currently serving as a North Carolina State Vice-President for the Future Farmers of America Association. Milosh has excelled as a community leader and received the AgYouth Leadership Program award in the spring of 2019. He is a Cheatham-White Scholar and a member of the University Honor Programs. After earning a degree, he plans to pursue a career in livestock genetics or reproductive physiology. Through research and industry-influenced application, he wants to help contribute to the improvement of livestock reproduction practices and further support livestock producers in the United States and foreign countries. He hopes that his work will make a positive impact on solving food insecurity in areas that depend on smaller livestock species as a primary source of sustenance.

Correggio L. Peagler

Student

North Carolina A&T State University

Correggio L. Peagler, an Atlanta, GA native, is a sophomore Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholar at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Correggio is a Biology Pre-med student who plans to obtain his medical degree and become an orthopedic surgeon upon graduating from NCAT. Correggio was an REU researcher, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, at NCAT and assisted in the study of the AKT1 Kinase in phosphorylation cascades this past summer under the supervision of Dr. Robert Newman. Correggio recently earned a first-place prize for research poster presentation at the North Carolina Honors Association for his research topic, "Design and computational modeling of chemically-inducible variant of protein kinase, AKT1." As a leader on campus, Correggio serves as a senator in the SGA, holding the office of Co-Chair for College of Science and Technology and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. In addition to serving as an ambassador for the Honors College, he is a member of the Minority Association for Pre-Medical Students, where he serves on the advocacy committee. He is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Georgia Aggies, and Mentoring Minority Males into Medicine. Correggio was selected to attend and represented the university at the US

Congressional Black Caucus: HBCU Braintrust in Washington, DC, in September 2019. Correggio is passionate about serving his community and volunteers with voter registration drives, martial arts initiatives, and mentoring initiatives, in addition to volunteering with various events sponsored by the Honors College.

Mr. James Ford

Executive Director, Center for Racial Equity in Education (CREED)

Member, NC State Board of Education

2014-2015 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

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James Ford is executive director of the Center for Racial Equity in Education (CREED). Prior to that he was program director at the Public School Forum. He is a member of the North Carolina State Board of Education and he was the 2014-2015 North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

Ford has also been recognized as Charlotte Magazine's Charlottean of the Year and the National Alliance of Black School Educators' Teacher of the Year. He taught World History & Sociology at Garinger High School in Charlotte, NC, starting in 2010. He began his teaching career in Rockford Public Schools in Rockford, IL. Ford earned a bachelor of science in mass communication from Illinois State University in 2003 and a master's degree in teaching from Rockford University in 2009. Ford completed his certification in educational leadership from Wingate University. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Before deciding to become a teacher, Ford's early career cemented his connection to children and youth. He worked as a truancy intervention specialist in high schools and director of a teen center that provided educational and after-school activities for youth at risk of dropping out of school. He considers his work to be his "life-calling" and has dedicated himself to serving his community through education. Ford is a husband, father, educator, activist, minister, and musical artist.

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