



Leadership North Carolina Class XXVIII

Government Session
November 4 – 6, 2020

Speaker Directory

Dr. Valerie Hillings

Director

North Carolina Museum of Art and NCMA Foundation

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Valerie Hillings became director of the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) in November 2018. Prior to joining the NCMA, she received her B.A. in art history from Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Since 2004 she has held senior positions for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation and worked on projects for museums in its global constellation—Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Las Vegas; and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice—and with partner institutions in Australia, Europe, and the Middle East.

During her tenure at the Guggenheim, Hillings rose through the curatorial ranks and curated more than 15 exhibitions on four continents, among them *RUSSIA!* (2005–6); *Hanne Darboven: Hommage à Picasso* (2006); *Guggenheim Collection: 1940s to Now* (2007); *Picturing America: Photorealism in the 1970s* (2009); *ZERO: Countdown to Tomorrow, 1950s–60s* (2014); and *The Creative Act: Performance, Process, Presence* (2017). *ZERO*, inspired by Hillings's doctoral thesis, was a 2014 AICA nominee for Best Thematic Show in New York, and the exhibition's website won a Webby Award. She collaborated with artists including Marina Abramović, El Anatsui, Angela Bulloch, Hanne Darboven, Susan Hefuna, Tomás Saraceno, and Günther Uecker on commissions, exhibitions, and public programs.

Hillings provided curatorial leadership for the Patrons Circle, a high-level Guggenheim membership group, and the Middle Eastern Circle affinity group, which supports acquisitions and programming at the Guggenheim Museum on an annual basis. She also served on the New York museum's photography acquisition committee. In 2009 she joined the Guggenheim's dedicated Abu Dhabi Project staff, tasked with planning for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a museum of modern and contemporary art currently under development in the Saadiyat Cultural District in Abu Dhabi. As curator and associate director of curatorial affairs, Hillings led a team that brought together leading experts in a variety of art historical fields to develop a strategy for originating for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi a collection of art since the 1960s made around the world in all mediums. She directed a robust acquisitions program, preopening exhibitions, public programs, and publications, realized in partnership with the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi and aimed at developing local audiences and increasing awareness of the future museum.

In addition to her Guggenheim projects, Hillings has published and publicly lectured on curatorial practice and on various topics in post–World War II art history and contemporary art. She served on the jury for the Kandinsky Prize for Russian contemporary art from 2007 to 2009 and the international ZERO Foundation Scientific Board, Düsseldorf, Germany, from 2011 to 2014. From 2014 to 2017, she was a member of the Board of Advisors for the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. In 2016 she was a fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership in New York.

Dr. Mina Levin

Docent

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Mina Lea Levin is a native of Philadelphia who moved to central North Carolina in 1975 after completing her education at Bryn Mawr College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. After her medical residency at UNC Hospital, she practiced Internal Medicine for 26 years. During that time, in addition to private practice, she was a UNC Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in Raleigh at the Wake AHEC and worked for 6 years as the Medical Director of Hospice of Wake County.

Since retiring she has been a docent at the North Carolina Museum of Art for sixteen years and is currently a member of the NC Art Museum Foundation Board of Directors. In the past, she has served on the NCMA Docent Board, the Advisory Board of the Raleigh Contemporary Art Museum (CAM Raleigh) for 6 years, including three as its chairperson, and the Board of Hospice of Wake County for six years where she acted as Secretary and also Chair of Strategic Planning. She was also active in Raleigh Fine Arts and served in 2010 as its Vice President for programs.

Along with her husband, Ron Schwarz, Mina enjoys traveling in the US and Europe, attending local theater, and participating in play seminars in major cities. They have a collection of contemporary art glass and Japanese contemporary ceramics. She is an avid knitter and reader of historical fiction.

Dr. Lyle Humphrey

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Lyle Humphrey is Associate Curator of European Art and Collections History at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Her research and publications explore a range of topics in north Italian painting and manuscript illumination and the collecting of ancient, medieval, and early modern art in America. Since joining the NCMA in 2013, Lyle has curated a focus exhibition on a rediscovered bronze medallion designed by Gianlorenzo Bernini (2014); a loan exhibition of Venetian paintings and incunabula, "Glory of Venice: Renaissance Paintings 1470–1520" (co-curated with David Steel, 2017); and, most recently, a series of exhibitions dedicated to the history and development of the NCMA, a subject on which she has also published several articles. In 2015, her book on the manuscript patronage of Venetian confraternities and guilds was published by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in Venice with the support of the Regione del Veneto and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Lyle earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts.

Mr. John N. Davis

Editor

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John Davis is a non-partisan political analyst whose 45-year career includes campaign work at all levels, from presidential and congressional to state executive and legislative races.

From Maine to Montana, from Maryland to New Mexico, Davis has worked with business groups in half of the states in the country establishing political research operations.

From 1986 – 2008, Davis served as President of NCFREE, providing political analysis to business, professional and medical organizations. He was founding editor of NCFREE's *Almanac of North Carolina Politics*, and he is recognized as one of the state's leading authorities evaluating candidates and forecasting political races.

Today, Davis continues his work as a political analyst through public speaking and as author of the [John Davis Political Report](#), now in its 13th year of publication.

A native of Graceville, FL, Davis is a graduate of William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Raleigh. They have five grown children.

Ms. Kara Millonzi

Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Professor of Public Law and Government

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Kara Millonzi is the Robert W. Bradshaw Distinguished Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government. She specializes in local government finance law, general county law, school finance, utilities finance, capital finance, and incorporation. She administers the Coates' Canons Local Government Law Blog and has authored well over 100 posts on issues related to local government law and finance. She also has authored numerous publications, including *A Guide to Billing and Collecting Public Enterprise Utility Fees for Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Services*, *Introduction to Local Government Finance* (now in its 4th edition), and *The Governance and Funding Structure of North Carolina Public Schools*. She teaches several core finance and local government courses.

Kara is the faculty lead for Lead for North Carolina, a fellowship program that aims to recruit, train, and place the state's most promising young leaders in paid local government fellowships as a means of strengthening our public institutions, supporting our local communities, and cultivating a new generation of public service leaders. Before joining the School, Millonzi practiced law with Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP in Boston and clerked for a federal judge. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and the Bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Millonzi earned a BA in economics, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University at Buffalo and an MA in economics from the University of Maryland at College Park. She earned a JD, with highest honors, Order of the Coif,

from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she served as editor in chief of the North Carolina Law Review.

Mr. McKinley Wooten Jr.

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Chief Justice Cheri Beasley appointed McKinley Wooten Jr. as director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) on March 2, 2020. Wooten had been serving as interim director since February 28, 2019, managing the administrative services provided to the Judicial Branch's more than 6,400 employees and 213 judicial facilities in every county of the state. He is the first African American to serve as director of the NCAOC. He previously served as deputy director of NCAOC, deputy secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, and inspector general at the North Carolina Department of Justice.

His leadership role and responsibilities ultimately help North Carolina's unified court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources. Wooten has a special interest in supporting, recognizing, and celebrating the individual skills and talents of each Judicial Branch employee. He also is very focused on three I's for the court system: innovation, inclusion, and integrity.

Prior to his appointment as interim director, Wooten was a deputy director with NCAOC responsible for overseeing statewide services for courts, including language access, recovery treatment courts, a help desk for clerks of court, child custody and permanency mediation, the Guardian ad Litem program, and the Court Improvement Program. Additionally, he held an integral leadership role in the Judicial Branch's statewide eCourts initiative, a multi-year effort to modernize court technology and case management systems. He also serves on a number of government boards and committees, including the Chief Justice's Equal Access to Justice Commission, Wake County Human Services Board, UNC School of Government Foundation Board, and North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union, serving as chairperson from 2011-13. Wooten volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle and serves as minister of music at his local church.

A native of Kinston, NC, Wooten is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in English, and he received a J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School. He is married to Laura H. Wooten, and they are the proud parents of a young adult son and daughter.

Mr. James White

Principal Clerk
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James White began his career with the North Carolina House of Representatives in 2009. His journey to Principal Clerk of the House started as a House Intern and from that point progressed to increasingly complex roles within the administrative layers of the legislature—serving as House Legislative Assistant, House Committee Clerk, and then in 2012 accepting a position working within the House Principal Clerk's office as an Administrative/Voting Clerk. He is

one of the youngest Principal Clerks in the nation and stays active within the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries. An Oregon native, James has spent the majority of his life living in North Carolina. He lives in Cary with his wife Julie and son Lucas, where the three enjoy the area's culinary adventures and active outdoor lifestyle.

Mr. Kevin Leonard

LNC Class XXVI Alumnus

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Kevin Leonard is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), which represents all 100 North Carolina Counties. Kevin has worked with the NCACC since 2009 serving in multiple roles including: Legislative Coordinator, Director of Government Relations, and Deputy Director. Previously, Kevin was Senior Government Relations Manager at Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice; Director of Government Affairs for the North Carolina Department of Labor; Chief of Staff for a member of the North Carolina General Assembly; Legislative Assistant for a Member of the United States House of Representatives; and Production Assistant with C-SPAN.

The Honorable Regina Parker

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Judge Regina R. Parker graduated from Williamston High School in 1985 and thereafter received the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University in 1989. Following undergraduate school, Judge Parker earned the Juris Doctor degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Following law school, Judge Parker clerked on the North Carolina Court of Appeals for the Honorable Clifton Johnson. In 1993, she became a partner with the law firm of Smallwood, Rodgers and Hayes where she worked as a trial attorney until 1997. Judge Parker joined the law firm of the esteemed, late Attorney Earl T. Brown where she worked from 1998 until 2001, practicing juvenile and real estate law.

In 2001, Governor James B. Hunt appointed Judge Parker to the District Court bench in the Second Judicial District, comprising Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington County. This historic appointment made Judge Parker the first woman and African American judge in the Second Judicial District. Early in her tenure on the District Court, Judge Parker initiated the Teen Court program in the Second Judicial District, diverting teen offenders to a specialty, educational but non-judicial proceeding. During her time on the bench, Judge Parker has been pleased to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee for Martin, Beaufort, and Washington County and by appointment to the North Carolina Courts Commission. Serving for more than 19 years, Judge Parker has been re-elected to the District Court by the citizens of the Second Judicial District without opposition.

On March 1, 2018, Chief Justice Mark Martin of the North Carolina Supreme Court appointed Judge Parker to the position of Chief District Court Judge for the Second Judicial District. As the first female and African-American Chief District Court Judge in this judicial District, Judge Parker has begun to tackle head-on the mental health and opioid epidemics, which impact the lives of thousands of families in eastern North Carolina. As the founding member of the Opioid Crisis and Mental Health Coalitions, she has convened a multi-disciplinary alliance of professionals to address

these crises. Currently, she is developing a Drug Court and Truancy Court to provide drug-addicted offenders with the intensive, individualized treatment they need to become healthy, law-abiding, and productive family and community members. With the School to Justice Partnership North Carolina, Judge Parker has taken the lead to assemble community stakeholders in the Second Judicial District to develop and implement strategies to keep youth in school and out of court in Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell and Washington County.

Judge Parker serves on numerous community and professional boards. Her passion, however, continues to be serving the Lord, Jesus Christ, and her community. She is a member of Believer's Fellowship Conference Center where Rick Carson is the pastor. Judge Regina Parker is married to Dr. Norris Parker, and they have two daughters, Maya, 21, and Morgan, 15.

Mr. Doug Bean

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Doug Bean is director of government services for Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc., a utilities financial management and consulting firm with offices in Charlotte, NC. He is also an adjunct instructor at the University of North Carolina School of Government. Prior to joining Raftelis, he was director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Department for sixteen years. He served as city manager for the City of Asheville from 1986 to 1994, city manager for the City of Morganton from 1978 to 1986, and assistant city manager for the City of Morganton from 1976 to 1978. He received the 2004 Distinguished Practitioner Award from the Southeastern Conference on Public Administration and National Achievement Awards from both the American Water Works Association Management Division and the National Association of Counties. Bean holds a BA in history from Lenoir-Rhyne College and an MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Ms. Lydian Altman

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Lydian Altman works with and across various public sector organizations to diagnose, design, develop, and deliver leadership programs and services for public officials through the School's Center for Public Leadership and Governance. Since she joined the School in 1999, her work has included consulting with elected and appointed leaders to create strategic plans, teaching leadership topics, and facilitating retreats for governmental and nonprofit organizations and cross-sector community groups to help them plan and work together to solve public problems. Many of her project-generated articles have been published in ICMA's IQ Report and PM Magazine, the American Review of Public Administration, Popular Government, and PA Times. Altman holds a BS in industrial relations and an MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill.

XXVIII Government Session Planning Committee

David Bohm, Program Chair *Wake*

Director of Development, Campbell Law School

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David hails from Kansas, but he arrived at the hallowed land that is North Carolina as soon as he could upon completing his educational pedagogy. After practicing law in New Bern and then Charlotte within a ten-year span, his growing family took priority and a shift in careers occurred that led him (a spouse, 2 kids, and a dog) to blaze a new trail in the nonprofit space. He began that new trail working for a statewide trade association for attorneys, spending eight years managing teams and running projects as the assistant executive director. He then took a leap of faith to stretch his skill sets by taking on the sole development role for Campbell Law School. He now "enriches lives and transforms communities" by bringing opportunities into the school that prepare the next generation of legal graduates to be successful community leaders.

More important than work accomplishments is David's desire to be an impactful leader at home, in his church, in the community, and even statewide through serving others. He currently serves on the boards of six nonprofit organizations and he focuses on intentionally identifying meaningful ways to bring people together for the purpose of their own personal growth and achievement. David would rather be remembered for his character and integrity than for any position or career. He is infectiously optimistic and believes strongly in leading with purpose and living with intention.

Lisa Hughes, Co-Chair *Yadkin*

County Manager, County of Yadkin

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Lisa brings 25 years of experience to her current role as County Manager of Yadkin County and is passionate about county government and its impact on the community. County government affects education, economy, public safety, the judicial system, planning, human services, land conservation, farming, and so many other things within a county. She also serves as the President-Elect of the Yadkin County Rotary Club and Chairman of the Yadkin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. She enjoys being a part of the community and serving the citizens. Lisa obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Appalachian State University. She also graduated from the Moore County Leadership Institute and Leadership Yadkin.

Dean McCall, Co-Chair *Martin*

President and Owner, Roanoke Therapy Services

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Dr. Dean McCall, PT, OCS is president and owner of Roanoke Therapy Services, Inc. Dean is a 2004 graduate of Duke University's DPT program. He also holds a BA in Psychology from East Carolina University and an AAS in Physical Therapy from Martin Community College. He is an Orthopedic Certified Specialist as recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

Dr. McCall has a long history of service to his profession in elected executive committee roles within the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the North Carolina Physical Therapy Association (NCPTA). He has also served as NCPT-PAC Chairman, along with being on multiple other committees and task forces. A member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) since 1992, Dean has also been a long-time elected delegate for North Carolina to the APTA House of Delegates, which is the policymaking body for the profession.

When not working as a clinician or administrator, Dr. McCall enjoys being a guest lecturer on topics including political advocacy and the business of healthcare at universities across the state. He has also taught as adjunct faculty for Mount Olive University's Tillman School of Business's Health Care Management Program.

Dean is married to his wife Sandra and has a seven-year-old daughter named Lauren. They make their home in Williamston, NC. He is passionate about rural eastern NC economic development, to include small business, manufacturing industry, education, and healthcare, in order to preserve rural communities and prevent out-migration of finance and resources.

Karen Clough *Tyrrell*

Chair, Tyrrell County Board of Education

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Karen Clough grew up in Winston-Salem but calls Columbia, NC, home now. Columbia is located in Tyrrell County, the least populous county in NC. Karen is a proud East Carolina University graduate (Go Pirates!). Karen currently serves as the Chair of the Tyrrell County Board of Education and is the remote learning liaison for four sons (1st grade, 3rd grade and 11th grade).

Karen is passionate about public education and opportunities for youth. Karen enjoys making a difference in her community by being active and supporting the Tyrrell County Schools, Cub Scout Pack and Scouts BSA Troop 86, Tyrrell County Juvenile Justice Committee, and Sound Side Baptist Church. Karen and her husband Mark and four sons are the third generation to live on the Clough farm in Columbia.

Elizabeth Grovenstein *Wake*

Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, North Carolina Community College System

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Elizabeth P. Grovenstein has served as the Vice President and CFO for the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) since November 2016. Previously, Elizabeth was Assistant State Budget Officer for Education in the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) for more than nine years. At OSBM she also served as Assistant State Budget Officer for General Government and Information Technology, Senior Budget Analyst for Public Education, Advanced Budget Analyst for NCCCS, and Budget Analyst for many UNC System institutions. Elizabeth's previous experience includes teaching in the Wake County Public School System and serving as Senior Policy Analyst at the Hunt Institute.

Elizabeth is a Raleigh native, an NCSU football and basketball fanatic, and passionate about serving her home state of North Carolina with a focus on education.

Tru Pettigrew *Wake*

Founder, Tru Access

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Tru is a celebrated author, an engaging speaker, a committed community leader, and an award-winning marketing executive with 20 years of experience at the nation's top advertising and marketing agencies.

Tru currently serves as founder and president of Tru Access (www.Tru-Access.com), which is an inspiration and empowerment consultancy that serves individuals and organizations by helping them to bridge gaps. His first book, *Millennials Revealed*, serves as a guide for countless individuals and organizations across the country to help them build meaningful connections across diverse generations.

As a diversity and inclusion advocate and committed community bridge builder, Tru has established a strong reputation for building bridges across racial, cultural, social, and relational lines. Tru currently lives in Cary, NC with his wife of 18 years, Tameka, and their 8-year-old son Austin.

Jeff Ross *Cleveland*

Community Engagement and Corporate Responsibility Manager, Atrium Health

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Jeff is a Corporate Community Engagement & Corporate Responsibility Manager for Atrium Health in the West Market: Cleveland, Rutherford, Gaston and Lincoln counties. He is responsible for developing and implementing market plans & budgets in collaboration with market director and market leadership team. He is also responsible for management of day to day operations as well as management of key influencer internal and external relationship strategies. Jeff also leads Community Benefit strategies in the market.

Jeff Sural *Wake*

Director, Broadband Infrastructure Office, State of North Carolina

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Jeff Sural joined the N.C. Department of Information Technology in January 2015 as the director of the Broadband Infrastructure Office. This office leads the statewide initiative to expand high-speed internet access for all North Carolinians, focusing its resources on underserved rural communities.

The office provides policy recommendations and guidance to government leaders and key stakeholders to foster broadband infrastructure expansion, adoption, and use. Through the use of on-the-ground technical advisors, the office provides assistance to local government leaders working to facilitate broadband expansion in their communities. The office includes the state's FirstNet public safety education and outreach program.

A native of Greensboro, Sural has more than 20 years of experience as an attorney and public policy expert working at the state and federal levels. Prior to joining NC DIT, he was a member of the Legislative and Public Policy Group at Alston & Bird LLP in Washington, DC. Sural previously served as a deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and as assistant administrator for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. He also served as legislative counsel to U.S. Congressman Vernon Ehlers and as assistant majority counsel for the Michigan House of Representatives.

Sural earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing.

April Umminger *Durham*

Senior Manager, External Communications, RTI International

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April Umminger is senior manager at RTI International and leads external communications. She has an extensive background in media and spent 14 years working as a journalist for the Washington Post and USA Today.

She covered some of the biggest news events of our time, including the Columbine High School shooting and the September 11 terrorist attacks. Umminger was part of the team at the Washington Post awarded the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news in 2008 for its coverage of the shooting at Virginia Tech.

After leaving journalism, Umminger pursued a career in crisis communications and public relations. She started the first real-time storytelling service on behalf of brands for Edelman, the largest Public Relations and Marketing agency in the world. She led crisis communications for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina during the largest

technological breakdown in the history of the company, as well as the crisis response at Edison Electric Institute in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

Umminger holds a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

Kara Weishaar *Wake*

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Kara Weishaar is the Director of Government Relations and Association Management at Smith Anderson, where she serves as Executive Director for the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists and the North Carolina Travel and Tourism Coalition. In this role, Kara manages the two associations by coordinating membership, planning annual meetings/conferences, and advocating on behalf of their interests with officials at the legislative and executive branches. She also lobbies on behalf of other healthcare and energy clients.

Prior to working at Smith Anderson, Kara spent nine years in Washington, DC, serving as a staffer in the U.S. Senate. Kara is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and lives in Raleigh with her husband and three sons.

Winnie Wiseman *Pasquotank*

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Winnie Wiseman is an external affairs representative of Dominion Energy, a utility firm headquartered in Richmond, VA. Winnie oversees state and local affairs in Northeast North Carolina, where Dominion provides electrical service to customers located in twenty counties. She is proud to be a part of LeadershipNC.

Jeff Yelton *Iredell*

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Jeff was born and raised in Charlotte as the middle son of North Carolinians Bob Yelton and Barbara Poole. Currently he lives in Mooresville with his wife, Rebecca. They enjoy the tranquility and beauty of Lake Norman and its surrounding areas with their adult children, extended family, and friends. Jeff holds a Bachelor of Architecture from NC State University. He has more than three decades experience with a focus on college and university projects. He currently serves as Vice President of Higher Education and Student Life at Clark Nexsen in Charlotte.

Jeff is an avid sports fan, particularly Wolfpack basketball. Golf is also a passion he enjoys in his free time. He and Rebecca enjoy boating and relaxing on the dock while watching spectacular sunsets.