

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect**  
**Increasing the Use of Evidence in State Government:**  
**Perspectives from Government, Research, and Philanthropy**  
Relevant Resources

This is a follow-up to the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) (OSP) December 2023 Monthly Connect: *Increasing the Use of Evidence in State Government: Perspectives from Government, Research, and Philanthropy* ([recording](#)).

OSP regularly shares information and resources after the Monthly Connect sessions. Typically, panelists or participants shared the information and resources in the virtual “chat.” This is not intended to be a comprehensive list. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

**Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:**

*Tim Griffith (moderator)*, Evidence Advisor, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

*Erin Huggins*, Associate Director, Program Evaluation and Educational Research, NC State University

*Shrutika Sabarwal*, Director, Evidence-Based Policy, Arnold Ventures

*Bill Schneider*, Vice President, System Effectiveness, NC Community College System Office

**Resources**

*Descriptions are in alphabetical order and paraphrased from active links as of December 6, 2023. Links are organized by agency/organization.*

**[Arnold Ventures](#)**

Arnold Ventures, founded in 2010, is a philanthropy dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans through evidence-based policy solutions that maximize opportunity and minimize injustice. Arnold Ventures advocates for policy reforms at all levels of government and funds research to better understand root causes of problems and build the evidence to inform policy solutions.

- Arnold Ventures and OSP co-created the NC Evidence Advisor role (more below) in 2021 to provide state agencies with internal capacity to conduct rigorous research and evaluation and embed evidence into the policymaking and budgeting process.
- Arnold Ventures funds rigorous research and evaluation projects in several focus areas that include evidence-based policy, criminal justice, higher education, health, infrastructure, and public finance. For more information on Arnold Ventures’ investments and current grants in North Carolina visit [here](#).

**The [Friday Institute](#) at NC State University**

The Friday Institute advances K-12 education through innovation in digital-age teaching, learning, and leadership. Through bringing together students, educators, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educational professionals, and other community members, the Friday Institute fosters collaborations that improve education and help inform policymaking.

- In partnership with [NC Central University](#), and the [Institute for Emerging Issues](#), the [Program Evaluation and Education Research Group at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation](#) led the effort to manage the development of a [Digital Equity Asset Inventory for NC](#), conduct a series of listening sessions across the state and facilitate the implementation and analysis of a statewide digital equity survey to help the NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) Division of Broadband and Digital Equity develop a five-year [digital equity plan](#). OSP facilitated the research partnership among NCDIT, the Friday Institute, and NC Central University. A summary of project deliverables is on the [NC Project Portal](#).

## NC Community College System Office ([NCCCS](#))

The NC Community College System Office is the administrative agency overseeing the 58 North Carolina community colleges. The System Office is a hub of innovation, dedicated to championing forward-thinking policies and solutions, providing unwavering support, and fervently advocating for the advancement of education at all levels.

- NCCCS is a partner with the [SERVE Center](#) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the NC Department of Public Instruction ([NCDPI](#)) [on the evaluation of the Career and College Promise Program](#).
- NCCCS developed [Data Dashboards](#) that allow users to explore and interact with a range of NCCCS data from student, program, and course enrollment to state performance measures to transfer and employment outcomes.

## NC Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#))

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating state government's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policy and programmatic functions.

- [Evidence Advisor](#): Partner with agencies to identify areas and opportunities for evaluating policy and program effectiveness; assisting state agencies with articulating priority research questions; strategizing about how to answer those questions; and efforts to maximize discretionary spending on evidence-based policies and programs.
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): OSP created the Project Portal to share opportunities for partnering with state agencies and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities. Sample project:
  - [Are there practices that could improve operations, efficiency, or utilization of Finish Line Grants?](#) The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships through collaboration with the NC Department of Commerce and NC Community College System, evaluated the Finish Line Grants program and created a process evaluation that led to recommended practices which include surveys and responses from one or more representatives of every Finish Line Grant local partnership.
  - [An NC Department of Adult Correction project on developing rigorous research and evidence](#): NC Department of Adult Correction and NC Office of Strategic Partnerships are undertaking an initiative to develop NDCAC's Priority Questions Research Agenda (PQRA), to set and define key areas in which the agency will research and develop evidence to inform its policy, programmatic, and operational decisions.
  - The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) and the [SERVE Center](#) at UNC Greensboro have hosted three *Supporting State Agencies with Program Evaluations* workshops. The [first workshop](#) (May 2022) followed OSP's [January 2022 Monthly Connect](#) on conducting RCTs in state government. Participants expressed interest in additional sessions; OSP and the SERVE Center hosted the [second workshop](#) in September 2022 and the [third workshop](#) in March 2023.

## [Results for America](#)

Results for America helps local, state, and federal government leaders and policymakers deliver better results and faster progress, using evidence and data to fund solutions that work to accelerate economic mobility.

- In 2023, for the third year in a row, Results for America [named](#) North Carolina one of five 'Leading States' for building and using evidence and data to inform government decision making.' See [North Carolina features](#).