

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships
Team Bios**

Eliza Edwards

As Deputy Director, Eliza helps coordinate OSP's efforts to develop, launch, and enhance partnerships between state agencies and non-governmental partners on priority policy and programmatic issues, develop and convene networks of public sector and research experts, provide learning and engagement opportunities for a variety of stakeholders, and share resources and information relevant to OSP's work and impact. Prior to joining OSP, Eliza was a member of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's policy team.

Keegan Huynh

As Program Support Specialist, Keegan supports the team on an array of existing and emerging projects focused on institutionalizing partnerships between state government and the state's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes coordinating meeting logistics, drafting the OSP Highlights newsletter, documenting outreach & impact, and maintaining OSP's electronic files. Prior to joining OSP, Keegan served as a fellow in UNC Chapel Hill's Lead for North Carolina program, where he worked to strengthen the capacity of local government to effectively deliver services in NC's Tier One communities. As a former paralegal and field organizer, he brings extensive experience in office administration and a passion for public service.

Lori Ko

Lori Ko is an undergraduate Intern with OSP through the State of North Carolina Internship Program. In this role, Lori is exploring how cross-sector partnerships enable state government to effectively generate and use evidence to support policy and programmatic functions. She is a B.A. candidate in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania and is minoring in Survey Research and Data Analytics and in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, with a concentration in Korean Studies.

Jenni Owen

As Director, Jenni identifies and launches strategic partnerships between and among state government, universities/colleges, philanthropy, and other entities. This includes deepening state government connections with external research experts and increasing agency capacity to conduct and use evidence to improve policy. Jenni was previously Policy Director for Governor Roy Cooper and Director of Policy Engagement and on the faculty of the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. A 2007 Eisenhower Fellow to South Africa, her civic roles have included: commissioner, NC Indigent Defense Services; board member, El Futuro and Durham Children's Initiative; Policy Council, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management; and member, National Conference of State Legislatures Evidence-Informed Policymaking work group.

Joy Vermillion-Heinsohn

As Philanthropy Liaison, Joy works to build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in North Carolina. Prior to joining OSP, Joy spent over 22 years in the philanthropic sector, serving most recently as Assistant Director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. She has served on numerous local, state, and national boards and commissions. Joy is a recipient of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Lucius N. Littauer Award, a former Hull Fellow of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, and an alumna of Leadership North Carolina.

David Yokum

David Yokum, JD, PhD is Director of The Policy Lab at Brown University, Senior Advisor to OSP, and host of the 30,000 Leagues podcast. As Senior Advisor, David brings unique and important skills and experience from leading and managing a wide portfolio of work leveraging scientific insights and methods to improve public policy and operations with governments across the country. David was previously the founding director of The Lab @ DC in the D.C. Mayor's Office and, before that, a founding member of the White House's Social & Behavioral Sciences Team and director of its scientific delivery unit housed at the U.S. General Services Administration.