

North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships Advisory Group (as of May 2023)



Fouad Abd-El-Khalick

Dean, School of Education, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dr. Fouad Abd-El-Khalick has served as dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education since 2016. An elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he is a leading researcher on the teaching and learning about nature of science in precollege grades, and in teacher-education settings. At the School of Education, he has led efforts that have grown enrollment, increased credit hours taught, expanded student and faculty diversity, and boosted research funding. Before coming to Carolina, Dr. Abd-El-Khalick worked for 16 years at the University of Illinois, winning teaching and research awards, and being named the Grayce Wicall Gauthier Professor of Education.



Curtis Bradley

Research Implementation Manager, NC Department of Transportation

Dr. Curtis Bradley is Research Implementation Manager for the NC Department of Transportation's Research & Development Unit, which oversees transportation-related research for the Department. He was previously the Research Implementation Manager for the Unit. Dr. Bradley received a BS in Architecture and Environmental Design from Morgan State University and MS in Transportation Planning from South Carolina State University. In 2016 he was awarded the doctorate in Civil Engineering: Transportation Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.



Anita Brown-Graham

Program Director, nclIMPACT, School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill

Anita Brown-Graham is the program director of nclIMPACT—a special initiative that seeks to expand the UNC School of Government's capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues. Since her arrival, she and her colleagues have devised programs to support communities working on issues such as increasing economic mobility, extending the labor pool, advancing educational attainment, and reducing opioid misuse. Brown-Graham also coordinates UNC-Chapel Hill's pan-university "Carolina Across 100" initiative, which aims to help communities in all 100 NC counties recover from the far-reaching effects of COVID-19. Brown-Graham earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Lisa Chapman

President, Central Carolina Community College

Dr. Lisa M. Chapman is President of Central Carolina Community College. She is the former Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer at the North Carolina Community College System Office in Raleigh. Before going to the state level in 2014, Dr. Chapman had been with CCC for 27 years. At the college, she held the positions of instructor, chair of the Math and Science Department, academic dean, vice president of Academic Affairs/chief academic officer, and executive vice president of instruction/chief academic officer.



Emily Williamson Gangi

Policy Director, Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, NC Department of Information Technology

Emily Gangi serves as the Policy Director for the Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, which focuses on closing the state’s digital divide by investing in high-speed internet infrastructure and access, affordability, and digital literacy. She previously served as policy engagement director at the UNC School of Government, director of strategic planning and policy at the NC Community College System, and vice president for student development at Western Piedmont Community College. Emily served on the Hildebran Town Council, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Advisory Panel, and the board of directors of Burke Economic Development Council and Blue Ridge Healthcare Foundation. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill and completed an education specialist degree in higher education administration from Appalachian State University.



Deborah Goldstein

Executive Director, North Carolina Leadership Forum, Duke University

Debbie Goldstein is the Executive Director of the NC Leadership Forum at Duke University. Prior to joining NCLF, she was an Executive Vice President at the Center for Responsible Lending, a national research and policy organization based in Durham that focuses on protecting borrowers from abusive lending practices. Goldstein also taught Consumer Law at the UNC School of Law at Chapel Hill as an adjunct professor and has served on the boards of Durham Congregations in Action, Beth El Synagogue, Carolina Jews for Justice, and Bend the Arc. She is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School, and enjoys spending time with her husband and two children when she is not at work.



Kerry Haynie

Professor, Department of Political Science, Duke University

Dr. Kerry L. Haynie is a Professor and Chair of Political Science, Professor of African and African American Studies, and a former Chair of Duke’s Academic Council (Faculty Senate), 2019-21. He earned B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a master’s degree from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Before coming to Duke in 2003, Haynie was a member of the faculty at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and the University of Pennsylvania.



Don Hobart

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UNC-Chapel Hill

Don Hobart is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he manages public and external affairs for UNC Research. His responsibilities include managing research opportunities with university, agency and institutional partners, external partnerships with businesses and economic development organizations, and global relationships. Prior to joining UNC-Chapel Hill, Don Hobart served the state of North Carolina in the Department of Commerce and Office of the Governor developing and executing economic development programs and policies, recruiting industry, and managing state and federal government affairs. He received his law and undergraduate degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Charlotte Hudson

Director, Lenfest Ocean Program, Pew Charitable Trusts

Charlotte Hudson directs the Lenfest Ocean Program, a grant-making program that identifies, supports, and communicates marine science concerning threats facing the world's oceans. She is responsible for identifying thematic areas of research and overseeing the design and implementation of research projects that meet the program's criteria. She also oversees the communication and dissemination of research results in ways that inform policy decisions and promote the sustainable management of the oceans. Before joining Pew, Hudson was the senior marine scientist at Oceana, an international marine conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's oceans. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Davidson College and a master's in environmental management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.



Jennifer Mundt

Assistant Secretary for Clean Energy Economic Development, NC Department of Commerce

Jennifer Mundt is the Assistant Secretary for Clean Energy Economic Development at the NC Department of Commerce, where she leads efforts to secure clean energy economic and workforce opportunities for North Carolina, including offshore wind. Most recently, she served as the Senior Policy Advisor in the Department of Environmental Quality and prior to that, Jennifer worked for more than a decade as a nonpartisan senior legislative analyst for the North Carolina General Assembly. Mundt earned bachelor's degrees in both environmental science and political science from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in public health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Margery Overton

Vice Provost for Academic Strategy, NC State University

Dr. Margery Overton is Senior Vice Provost for Institutional Strategy and Analysis at NC State University. She is also a professor of civil engineering in the College of Engineering. In her role, Dr. Overton leads Institutional Strategy and Analysis (ISA), which contributes to NC State's strategic mission by providing consistent and reliable data to inform and support effective decision-making across all campus constituencies and levels of governance. Overton also co-chairs the university's strategic planning process, including the implementation plan and metrics and works with the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost team on strategic resource management. She received her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in civil engineering from Duke University



Mark Schmidt

Associate Vice Chancellor, Partnerships, NC State University

Dr. Mark Schmidt serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Partnerships at NC State University, where he oversees university's strategy for engaging with corporate, government and nonprofit partners, including the 75 partnerships on Centennial Campus. He is also chair of the Conservation Technology Information Center. Previously, Mark held a 22-year career at John Deere, where he oversaw the company's university partnerships strategy, as well as a diverse range of external public and private stakeholder relationships and partnerships. Mark earned Bachelor of Science degrees in landscape architecture and agronomy from Purdue University, a Master of Science in agronomy from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in crop science from the University of Illinois.



Terri Shelton

Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, UNC-Greensboro

Dr. Terri L. Shelton is the Vice Chancellor of Research and Engagement at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In this role, she oversees the advancement of research, research administration, research integrity, innovation and commercialization, interdisciplinary, campus-wide research centers and community and economic engagement. Her scholarly work focuses on building the capacity of communities, families and youth, service providers, researchers, and policymakers through partnerships that bridge research, policy, and evidence-based practice, ensuring healthy lives and vibrant communities. In 2022, she received the Hiram E. Fitzgerald Distinguished Engaged Scholar Award from the Engagement Scholarship Consortium in recognition of her contributions as a community engaged scholar.



Tonya Smith-Jackson

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, N.C. A&T State University

Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson is the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at N.C. A&T State University. Dr. Smith-Jackson earned MS and PhD degrees from NCSU in Psychology/Ergonomics and Interdisciplinary Industrial Engineering. She earned a BA in Psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill. She spent 14 years at Virginia Tech, moving from assistant to associate to full professor of ISE. She is interim director of the Center of Excellence in Research, Education and Outreach and directs the Human Factors Analytics Lab and co-directs the laboratory for Cyber Human Analytics Research for the Internet of Things (CHARIoT).



Don Taylor

Director, Social Science Research Institute, Duke University

Dr. Don Taylor is a Professor of public policy at Duke University and a founding faculty member of the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy. Most of his ongoing research is in the area of end of life policy with a focus on patient decision making and Medicare policy on hospice and palliative care. He has served on national committees including National Academies Committee on Health Care Utilization and Adults with Disabilities and the HRSA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee that was created by the Affordable Care Act to reconsider how the federal government identifies Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas. Dr. Taylor earned his BS, MPP, and PhD at UNC Chapel Hill.



Jessie Tenenbaum

Chief Data Officer, NC Department of Health and Human Services

In her role as Chief Data Officer for the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Tenenbaum is responsible for the development and oversight of departmental data governance and strategy to enable data-driven policy for improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians. Dr. Tenenbaum is also a faculty member in Duke University's Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics. Nationally, she has served as Associate Editor for the Journal of Biomedical Informatics, elected member of the Board of Directors for the American Medical Informatics Association, and on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Library of Medicine.



Oliver Thomas

Director of External Affairs, N.C. A&T State University

Oliver M. Thomas, Ph.D., is the Director of External Affairs at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is a gifted servant-leader with 16+ years of experience in preparing future leaders, strategic planning, and community building in the public and ecclesial sector. Dr. Thomas has held roles in higher education as a faculty member and administrator. Prior to serving as the Director of External Affairs, Dr. Thomas taught African American History in the Department of History and Political Science at North Carolina A&T. As the Director of External Affairs, his primary responsibility is to develop and enhance relationships with local, regional, state, federal, and elected officials, as well as key stakeholders, alumni, and the community at large. Dr. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from North Carolina A&T State University, a Master's degree in Divinity from Wake Forest University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies with a concentration in Cultural Foundations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Kristin Walker

Director, NC Office of State Budget and Management

Kristin Walker currently serves as State Budget Director for the NC Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM). In this role she provides management oversight for statewide budget issues, demographic and economic analysis, preparation of budget recommendations, agency strategic planning, internal audit, and encouraging evidence-based policymaking. Prior to her 2022 appointment as State Budget Director by Governor Roy Cooper, Kristin served as Chief Deputy Budget Director for OSBM. Before joining the state budget office, Kristin was a Fiscal Analyst for the North Carolina General Assembly for more than 10 years. Before joining the state of North Carolina, she worked for the federal government at the National Science Foundation, managing multi-million-dollar grant programs in the social and behavioral sciences. Kristin graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and obtained her Master of Public Policy degree from the Sanford School at Duke University. She currently serves on the Sanford MPP Alumni Board. Kristin has also served on various nonprofit boards and committees and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Raleigh.



Jeff Warren

Executive Director, NC Collaboratory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dr. Jeff Warren is the Executive Director of the NC Collaboratory. Formally trained as a marine geologist, Dr. Warren has spent the past fifteen years in State-level science policy positions, including the coastal hazards policy specialist for the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (2004 to 2010) and the science advisor for the North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore (2011 to 2017). Dr. Warren earned his BSc from the University of Arizona (1994), his MSc from Auburn University (1997), and his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2006). His academic research included field sites in the southeastern US, northern Mexico, the East and South China Seas, and Antarctica.



David Yokum

Chief Scientist, NC Office of State Budget and Management; Senior Advisor, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships; Director, The Policy Lab at Brown University

David has been serving in an advisory capacity to OSP since 2019. He has previously served as 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 inaugural director of the U.S. General Services Administration. Over 100 field experiments have now been completed under The Policy Lab, The Lab @ DC, and the U.S. Office of Evaluation Sciences, and these ventures have inspired replications across the world.

David lives in Chatham County, NC with his wife, Sara, and their two boys, Ethan and Aaron.