

**NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Monthly Connect**  
**All Things NC Office of Strategic Partnerships**  
**Relevant Resources**

This is a follow-up to the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) February Monthly Connect: *All Things NC Office of Strategic Partnerships* ([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 of resources. More about the Monthly Connect series [here](#).

***Your input matters.*** *We can’t develop partnerships without partners. Please take 5-10 minutes to [share your feedback and ideas](#). Be part of our efforts to continuously improve and enhance the resources, services, opportunities, and technical assistance that OSP provides.*

Speakers at this Monthly Connect were:

**Kaitlin Anderson**, Evidence Advisor, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Scott Barlowe**, Associate Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Carolina University

**Angela Bednarek (moderator)**, Project Director, Evidence Project, The Pew Charitable Trusts

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

**Alicia James**, Program Manager, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Branden Jones**, Captain of Support Services, Law Enforcement Division, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

**Jasmine McGhee**, Special Deputy Attorney General and Director, Public Protection Section, NC Department of Justice

**Jenni Owen**, Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Meka Sales**, Director of Special Initiatives, The Duke Endowment

**Joy Vermillion Heinsohn**, Philanthropy Liaison, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

**Jeff Warren**, Executive Director, NC Collaboratory

**Delaney Welsh**, former Graduate Intern, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships; master’s student, UNC Charlotte

### **Resources**

*Descriptions are paraphrased and come directly from active links as of February 24, 2023.*

#### **[North Carolina Collaboratory](#)**

The NC Collaboratory was established for the purposes of facilitating the dissemination of policy and research expertise of the University of North Carolina System and other institutions of higher learning across the state for practical use by state and local government. The NC Collaboratory’s portfolio has a broad scope in areas that may use academic policy support, including investigations based on science, law, economics, and public health. As part of its mandate, the NC Collaboratory facilitates and funds research related to the environmental and economic components of the management of North Carolina’s natural resources.

#### **[North Carolina Department of Information Technology \(NCDIT\)](#)**

NCDIT provides information technology services and oversight to state agencies, local governments, and educational institutions. The agency also works on issues related to broadband access and digital literacy.

- [Division of Broadband and Digital Equity](#): The Division of Broadband and Digital Equity’s goal is to close the state’s digital divide by ensuring that every North Carolinian has access to affordable broadband internet services, quality technical support, and digital literacy training.
  - [Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Program \(GREAT\) Grant Program](#): The GREAT Grant Program offers state-funded grants to private providers of broadband services to facilitate the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas of NC. These grants help bring high-speed internet to North Carolinians in the most rural and remote areas of the state.

### **[North Carolina Network of Grantmakers \(NCNG\)](#)**

NCNG is a statewide forum for sharing information and promoting cooperation among NC’s private foundations, corporate giving programs, donor advised fund holders, and community foundations. NCNG also functions as a resource for networking and provides news and information on philanthropy.

- [NCNG 2023 Better Together Conference](#): NCNG’s annual meeting is February 28 and March 1, 2023, in Winston-Salem. The conference will include a [session](#) on government-philanthropy partnerships.

### **[North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships \(OSP\)](#)**

OSP develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state agencies and NC’s research and philanthropic sectors. As part of this work, OSP has created numerous resources about cross-sector partnerships. If you have questions about OSP or are interested in connecting, email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov).

- [Highlights e-news](#): A monthly communication that includes information on events, partnership opportunities, resources, and more. [Subscribe](#) to Highlights.
- [North Carolina Project Portal](#): A tool for sharing state agency research needs and for people to express interest in partnering on those opportunities. Monthly Connect speakers shared project examples, including:
  - [What is the distribution of data literacy secondary school pathways and higher education certificate and degree programs by NC county and tier?](#) (Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation/NC Dept. of Commerce, N.C. A&T State University, Western Carolina University)
  - [What are the best practices in digital literacy and what additional research and innovation are needed because evidence isn’t yet available?](#) (NC Dept. of Information Technology, NC State University)
  - [How can the NC Wildlife Resources Commission improve compliance with wildlife regulations and, in turn, public safety?](#) (NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State University, Wake Forest University)
- [Philanthropy Liaison](#): The Philanthropy Liaison works to build, strengthen, and institutionalize relationships between state government and the philanthropic sector in NC. The Philanthropy Liaison webpage includes resources for those interested in philanthropic partnerships.
- [Resources for Getting Involved](#): Contains numerous resources for those interested in cross-sector partnerships in North Carolina.
- [Supporting State Agencies with Program Evaluations Workshops](#): OSP and the [SERVE Center](#) at UNC Greensboro have hosted two *Supporting State Agencies with Program Evaluations* workshops. These workshops provide state agency staff and researchers the opportunity to discuss the design of potential evaluations for existing or new projects. The third workshop in this series is on March 28, 1:00-2:15 pm. Email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov) for more information or the calendar invite.

### **[Pew Charitable Trusts](#)**

The Pew Charitable Trusts is a nonpartisan nonprofit focused on generating research, providing technical assistance, and building relationships to improve public policy, inform the public, and promote civic participation. Project areas include conservation, finance and economics, governance, and public health.

- [Transforming Evidence Network](#): A multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral, international community of academics, policymakers, practitioners, funders, journalists, think tanks, and intermediaries. This network seeks to consolidate expertise around evidence production, sharing, and use to support a shared understanding about how research can more effectively address social problems. [Transforming Evidence Network LinkedIn Group](#).

### Comments and Questions

*The following is paraphrased from the Teams chat of this Monthly Connect.*

- A participant asked how extensively OSP collaborates with NC-based philanthropic organizations on topics such as funding and research support. Joy Vermillion Heinsohn responded that OSP engages with philanthropy about opportunities to support research, including through the NC Project Portal. Jenni Owen added that the Philanthropy Liaison is not a fundraiser for the State but can connect people to help facilitate partnerships. A participant asked if the literature review of digital literacy programs will be available to share. Jenni Owen responded yes. For more information, visit the digital literacy [project page](#).
- A participant asked how program evaluation specialists (as opposed to subject specialists) within academia can become involved as advisors. Kaitlin Anderson recommend that interested parties monitor the NC Project Portal, attend researcher interest meetings, subscribe to Highlights, and reach out if they have specific expertise in a particular project area. Jenni Owen invited agencies to notify OSP when they know they need evaluation support, and for external partners to let OSP know what expertise they can provide.
- A participant asked how interested individuals can connect with potential project partners in the state. Eliza Edwards responded that they should email [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov).
- A participant asked about student opportunities with OSP and more broadly with research partnerships. Delaney Welsh replied that OSP showed her how strategic planning and evidence inform government decision making. A participant asked what organizations should do if they want to engage in a partnership, but don't think they have the capacity to do so. Jenni Owen responded that it is difficult to say without specific examples, but they should start by not assuming they don't have capacity. They can start by sharing what they can bring to the table and then work with OSP to supplement that from within or outside of state government.

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