

NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum

April 14-15, 2021

Both days: sessions 1-4 PM; social hour 4-5 PM

Speaker biographies

This list of speaker biographies was compiled by the [NC Office of Strategic Partnerships](#) as a follow-up to the Government Research Partnerships Learning Forum. Biographies appear in the order in which speakers appeared on the agenda. Biographies were provided by the individual or are from online information; some were edited for length.

Day 1

Welcome



Ronald G. Penny

Secretary, NC Department of Revenue

In January 2017, Governor Roy Cooper named Ronald Penny Acting Secretary, NC Department of Revenue. He was unanimously confirmed in June 2017.

Prior to joining DOR, Penny held roles in state government, the NC university system and the private sector.

Penny was the UNC System's first Vice President for Human Resources. Prior to that, he was Director of the Office of State Personnel (now Office of State Human Resources) and a member of former Governor James B. Hunt's cabinet. In 1999, he served as President of the National Association of State Personnel Executives. Other professional experiences include Senior Managing Partner in Penny & Barnes, a multi-state law firm, General Counsel to the Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University and attorney for E.I. DuPont Corporation.

Penny holds a BS in Economics from NC A&T, a Juris Doctor from UNC Chapel Hill and is a member of the NC Bar.

Partnerships in Action



Ret Boney

Executive Director, NC Network of Grantmakers

Ret Boney joined the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers as executive director in May of 2013. For eight years, Ret covered the charitable world throughout North Carolina and the U.S. as deputy editor for the *Philanthropy Journal*, uncovering, dissecting and explaining issues and trends that impact nonprofit staff, boards and supporters. Prior to her move to the nonprofit sector, Ret managed the electric utilities group of KnowledgeBase Marketing and was a director in the loyalty-marketing division of Young & Rubicam. She also served as deputy policy director for Governor Jim Hunt and was a reporter and columnist for *Fortune Magazine*. Ret currently serves on the board of the United Philanthropy Forum, and previously served as board chair of Planned Parenthood Health Systems and was a founding board member of Wee Care Children's Enrichment Program, a nonprofit

preschool serving low-income children. Ret received her undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and earned a master's degree in business administration from Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Cami Gaudin-Gonzalez

Research and Evaluation Associate, Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program

Cami is the Research and Evaluation Associate for the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program at UNC Chapel Hill. In this role Cami creates evaluation tools, coordinates research practices and works directly with the participants of the FIT Study. Cami holds a master's degree in public health from Emory University and a bachelor's degree in healthcare studies from the University of Richmond.



Keyanna Terry

Human Services Coordinator, Durham Chronic Care Initiative, Durham County Department of Public Health

Keyanna Terry is the Human Services Coordinator for the Durham Chronic Care Initiative and works closely with the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) program. In this role, she supervises Durham's Community Health Workers to connect recently released people with chronic disease, mental illness and/or substance use disorder to appropriate health care services and help put together a comprehensive reentry plan working with local reentry partners.

Keyanna has been involved with the FIT Program in Durham since its inception and works closely with other Durham County Department of Public Health colleagues and FIT staff on program evaluation research.

Keyanna earned her Bachelor's degree in social work from NC Central University and a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Kelvin L. Thompson

Director, Single Stop, Central Piedmont Community College

Kelvin L. Thompson has been serving as a champion of student success for over 21 years. He has served as a K-12 educator, an educational consultant and a founder of a non-profit community center. He currently serves as the Director of Single Stop at Central Piedmont Community College. Single Stop at Central Piedmont is a one-stop shop that helps students overcome financial barriers by connecting them to a variety of resources. Kelvin is passionate and committed to ensuring that all Central Piedmont students have access to resources, in order to persist and reach their academic goals. In addition, Kelvin serves an adjunct Business Administration Instructor at Central Piedmont.

Kelvin has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Management and Leadership. When not at work, Kelvin enjoys spending time with his family.



Dr. Audrey J. "AJ" Jaeger

Executive Director, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research

Dr. Jaeger's research examines relationships and experiences among faculty and students that illuminate issues of transition, access, equity, climate, agency, and community engagement in postsecondary institutions. She is the former associate editor for *Research in Higher Education* and on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Higher Education* and *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*. Dr. Jaeger has received numerous teaching and mentoring awards including the 2016

Association for the Study of Higher Education Mentoring Award and 2015 Council of Southern Graduate Schools Outstanding Mentor Award. Her scholarship and academic contributions have also been recognized by the 2013 Women in Higher Education Achievement Award, 2015 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member, 2017 induction into the Academy of Community Engaged Scholarship, and 2018 Champion of Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education, N.C. Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center.



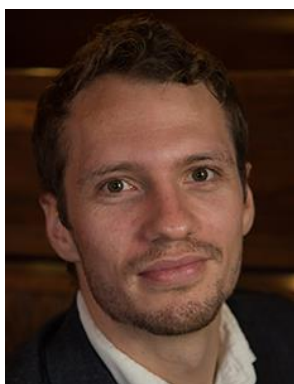
Barrett Morris

Assistant Director, Taxpayer Assistance and Collection Division, NC Department of Revenue

Barrett Morris is the Assistant Director of the Taxpayer Assistance and Collection Division at the North Carolina Department of Revenue. In this role, she oversees special operations, such as Bankruptcy, Offer in Compromise, and out-of-state tax collections, as well as division and agency-wide projects, process improvements, and legislative change requests. Morris has held this position since 2016.

Morris was previously the Assistant Director of the Collection Division in Western North Carolina for the Department of Revenue. Her work focused on field operations, including oversight for service center staff whose primary goal is to provide courteous, professional customer service to the citizens of NC in order to educate taxpayers, increase voluntary tax compliance, and collect all taxes due to the State.

Morris is a 2019 graduate of the North Carolina Certified Public Managers Program.



Joey Sherlock

Senior Behavioral Researcher, Center for Advanced Hindsight, Duke University

Joseph Sherlock leads the Government Team at the Center for Advanced Hindsight – a team which focuses on using behavioral science to bring innovation into civic society and has programs with funds totaling over \$2million. He is currently on an extended secondment (sabbatical) from central government in the UK where he is a Principal Behavioural Scientist with HM Revenue and Customs.

He has previously worked at the Behavioural Insights Team in Public Health, as a Branding Consultant for Clear M&C Saatchi, and has co-founded a behavioral and wellbeing science consultancy. Joseph has run 50+ RCTs with governments across the world and has a wealth of experience applying behavioral science and human-centered design to difficult behavioral challenges, mostly in the sustainability, transportation, tax, financial decision making and health arenas. Joseph has a First Class Psychology degree from the University of Bath and holds an MSc in Social Policy from The London School of Economics.

Agency Learning Agendas



Carrie Hollis

Economic Analyst, NC Office of State Budget and Management

Carrie Hollis is an Economist with the Office of State Budget and Management in North Carolina. She is engaged in various initiatives to enhance evidence-informed decision-making, including Results First and the state's regulatory impact analysis process. Before joining the budget office, she assessed community health needs for hospital systems using public health and demographic data. Carrie completed her Master's degree in Public Policy at Duke University.

Anne Bacon

Director of Strategic Planning and Policy, NC Community College System Office

Anne is the director of strategic planning and policy for the North Carolina Community College System, where she focuses on the development and implementation of the System's strategic plan, tracks legislation, and engages in policy research.

Anne's career addresses the intersection of workforce development, education, economic development, and human services. Half of her career was in the nonprofit sector, focused on workforce development and dislocated worker policy issues. The other half has been in state government, in the Community College System, Governor's Office, and Departments of Commerce and Health/Human Services.

Anne earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and Master's degree from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. She serves on the Postsecondary National Advisory Panel for the National Skills Coalition and Advocates for Action for the American Association of Community Colleges.



Patrick Crane

Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, NC Community College System Office

Patrick Crane is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the NC Community College System Office. Prior to serving in his current role, Dr. Crane served as the Director of the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development for the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Previously, Crane worked as the Director of Research and Data for the Oregon HECC, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, and as Education Policy Advisor to West Virginia Governor Joe

Manchin. He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Georgia, an M.Phil in Higher Education from the University of Oslo, and a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Wesleyan University.

Rick Bolich

Hydrogeologist, Division of Water Resources, NC Department of Environmental Quality

Rick Bolich, L.G. is the Chief of the Groundwater Resources Section of the NC Division of Water Resources. Rick has worked for the Division for 21 years. Prior to working for the state of NC, Rick operated as an independent groundwater consultant and has worked for large environmental consulting companies. Rick has a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Miami, and a Master's degree in Geology from NC State University. Rick is a licensed geologist in North Carolina and Virginia.

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Neil Mastin

Research and Development Manager, NC Department of Transportation

Neil Mastin is the Research and Development Manager for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, a role he has held since 2014. As R&D Manager, he oversees a research portfolio of more than 100 active projects. The NCDOT research program provides the agency access to cutting edge university research and national resources. Transportation research covers a broad spectrum of topics including investigating materials, operations, planning, policy, mobility, safety, structures, human environments, natural environments, and more. Neil is also the NCDOT liaison with national bodies such as the Transportation Research Board and AASHTO Research Advisory Committee. Over the past few years, the R&D Office has placed increasing emphasis on implementation of research innovations, including a formalized Technology Transfer Program. Prior to this role, Mr. Mastin spent more than 15 years in Pavement Engineering and Asset Management roles at the agency.

Tips – and warnings! – for successful partnerships



Anita R. Brown-Graham

Distinguished Gladys Hall Coates Professor of Public Law & Government, and Director of ncIMPACT Initiative, UNC School of Government

Anita rejoined the UNC School of Government in 2016 to lead ncIMPACT— a special initiative that seeks to expand the School’s capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues. ncIMPACT has devised programs to support communities working on economic mobility, poverty, the expansion of pre-k and opioid misuse. Brown-Graham’s first tour as a faculty member was from 1994–2006, when she specialized in governmental liability and community economic development.

In 2007 Anita became the director of the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University. There, she led IEI’s work to build North Carolina’s capacity for economic development and prosperity. She is a William C. Friday Fellow, American Marshall Fellow, and Eisenhower Fellow. In 2013, the White House named her a Champion of Change for her work at IEI. Anita earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



David Yokum

Director, The Policy Lab at Brown University; Senior Advisor, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

David Yokum, JD, PhD is Director of [The Policy Lab at Brown University](#), Senior Advisor to NC’s [Office of Strategic Partnerships](#), and host of the [30,000 Leagues podcast](#). 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. President Obama institutionalized the latter work in Executive Order 13707, “Using Behavioral Science Insights to Better Serve the American People.” Upwards of 100 field experiments have now been completed under The Policy Lab, The Lab @ DC, and the Office of Evaluation Sciences, which have been widely published, received extensive media coverage, and earned numerous awards, including the COSSA Public Impact Award.



Jenni Owen

Director, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

Jenni Owen is Director of the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships. She was appointed by Governor Roy Cooper to this position in 2018. In this role, Owen identifies and launches strategic partnerships between and among state government, universities/colleges, philanthropy, and other entities. This work focuses on deepening state government connections with external research experts and increasing agency capacity to conduct and use evidence to improve policy.

Owen was previously Policy Director for Governor Cooper and Director of Policy Engagement and on the faculty of the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. Owen was a senior policy advisor to Governor Jim Hunt and planning director for the Hunt Institute. 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.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program

See [Cami Gaudin-Gonzalez](#).

See [Keyanna Terry](#).

Breakout 2: Finish Line Grants Program



Andrea L. DeSantis

Assistant Director of Research, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research, NC State University

Andrea L. DeSantis is an assistant director of research at the Belk Center. Her current research is focused on transfer student success, developmental education reform, and emergency grant aid. She supports the activities of NILIE by providing data support on special projects. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development program at NC State.

Prior to joining the Belk Center, she worked in institutional research and college access programming.

See [Kelvin L. Thompson](#).

Breakout 3: NC Department of Revenue taxpayer outreach project

See [Barrett Morris](#).

See [Joey Sherlock](#).

Reflections and highlights



Dr. Tonya Smith-Jackson

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, NC A&T State University

Tonya Smith-Jackson, PhD, CPE is Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at NC A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. 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).



Pam Cashwell

Secretary, NC Department of Administration

Governor Roy Cooper named Pam Cashwell Secretary of the NC Department of Administration in April 2021. Cashwell is the first American Indian woman to head a state cabinet department in the state's history.

Prior to her appointment, Cashwell served as Senior Policy Advisor and Chief Deputy Secretary for Professional Standards, Policy and Planning at the NC Department of Public Safety. Before joining DPS, Cashwell was Assistant Director at the State Ethics Commission. She has 10 years of federal government service as a trial attorney.

Cashwell holds a B.A. in economics from UNC-Chapel Hill and a JD from UNC School of Law. As Secretary, she chairs the NC Commission on Inclusion, the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental and Health Equity Task Force and serves on the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

She lives in Wake County with her husband, David, and two sons, Samuel and Benjamin.

Day 2

Welcome and recap



Kristin Walker

Deputy Director, NC Office of State Budget and Management

Kristin Walker currently serves as Deputy 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, strategic planning, and evidence-based policy making. For over ten years she was a Fiscal Analyst for the North Carolina General Assembly, serving in a non-partisan role on issues including budget policy and administration, natural and economic resources, and economic development. Kristin previously worked for the federal government at the National

Science Foundation managing grant programs in the social and behavioral sciences. She graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and obtained her Master of Public Policy degree from the Sanford School at Duke University. Kristin was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the National

Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO). She serves on the Duke Sanford MPP Alumni Board and on the board of Read and Feed, a non-profit which provides afterschool tutoring to underserved students in Wake County.



Josh Dobson

Commissioner, NC Department of Labor

Josh Dobson was sworn in as North Carolina's 18th labor commissioner on Jan. 2, 2021, after serving eight years in the state House of Representatives. Dobson represented the 85th district covering Avery, McDowell and Mitchell counties located in the western part of the state. Dobson is a native of McDowell County and currently resides in Nebo with his wife, Valerie, and his daughter, Kennedy.

Dobson served as a McDowell County Commissioner from 2010 to 2012 before being appointed in 2013 to the 85th House district seat. As a member of the House, Dobson served as Full Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and the Chairman of the House Health Committee.

As Commissioner of Labor, employee safety is Dobson's top priority.

Dobson earned a Bachelor of Science in social sciences from Gardner Webb and a Master of Public Administration from Appalachian State University.



Jed Herrmann

Vice President of State and Federal Policy Implementation, Results for America

Jed Herrmann is Vice President for State and Federal Policy Implementation at Results for America, where he leads the organization's work to help state governments and federal agencies get better results by improving their use of data and evidence. Previously, Jed was a member of the national policy staff for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, where he served as Director of Policy Outreach. During the Obama Administration, Jed was appointed as the Senior Advisor to the CEO at the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. From 2004 to 2009, he worked as a senior official in the administration of Mayor Michael Bloomberg in New York City, where he was Chief of Staff and Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, a consumer protection and business development agency. Jed has also served in AmeriCorps, been a New York City public school teacher, and worked with USAID in Guatemala. He received a BA in History with distinction from Yale University and a Masters in Government Analytics from Johns Hopkins University.

Nuts and Bolts: Rapid Talks!



Susi H. Hamilton

Economic Development Advisor, NC Department of Transportation

Susi Hamilton has served NC and her hometown of Wilmington for nearly 25 years.

She began her career in the Department of Cultural Resources (now Department of Natural and Cultural Resources/DNCR) Historic Preservation Office and was thrilled to return to DNCR as Secretary for Governor Roy Cooper's first term (2017-2020). As Secretary, Hamilton oversaw NC's resources for arts, history, libraries and nature and

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worked to help grow communities, preserve a sense of place and improve quality of life to positively impact economic development for all of NC.

Hamilton was a state legislator from 2011 to January 2017, serving constituents in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties.

She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from UNC-Wilmington and a B.A. in History from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Currently, Secretary Hamilton is the Economic Development Advisor in the NC Department of Transportation, Office of Secretary Eric Boyette. She lives in Wilmington with her husband, Steve, and daughter, Parker.



Charlie Perusse

State Budget Director, NC Office of State Budget and Management

In January 2017, Governor Roy Cooper appointed Charlie to his second stint as State Budget Director. Charlie returns to OSBM after six years as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the UNC System. In his earlier work with OSBM, he was State Budget Director for three years and Deputy Director for six years. He also spent eight years in the General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division.

Charlie's career accomplishments include championing NC's Common Sense Government Initiative; developing a substantial portion of the \$2B Connect NC Bond Package; balancing the state budget each year of the Great Recession; maintaining NC's AAA bond rating; and transitioning the State to a new employee compensation program.

Charlie was awarded the 2020 Harry Hatry Distinguished Performance Management Practice Award from the Center for Accountability and Performance.

Charlie received a master's degree in Public Administration from UNC Chapel Hill and a B.A. in Political Science from NC State University.



Dr. Jessie Tenenbaum

Chief Data Officer, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Jessie Tenenbaum is the Chief Data Officer (CDO) for North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, 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, Dr. Tenenbaum has served as Associate Editor for the Journal of Biomedical Informatics and as an elected member of the Board of Directors for the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). She currently serves on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Library of Medicine.



Dr. Mariya Munir

Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UNC Charlotte

Mariya Munir is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE). She earned her undergraduate degree in Biotechnology (2008) and a master's degree (2010) and a Ph.D. (2014) in Environmental Engineering from Michigan State University. She then joined Virginia Tech as a Postdoctoral Researcher before joining UNCC in 2016. Her primary research interest is in the detection, removal, and inactivation of emerging biological contaminants in water and wastewater systems. Her research focuses on four main areas: Antibiotic Resistance in the Environment, Sustainable

water/wastewater treatment, Metagenomics and Microbial Water Quality, and Public Health related issues. Her experience in the application of environmental microbiology techniques in studying antibiotic resistance bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes in wastewater treatment plants provides a strong background for her research on the COVID19 pandemic. Currently, she is involved in tracking SARCOV 2 in wastewater treatment plants in Charlotte and the UNCC campus wastewater COVID19 surveillance study.

How do you build equity into partnerships from the start?



Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Pungello Bruno

President, Brady Education Foundation

Elizabeth Pungello Bruno, Ph.D., is President of Brady Education Foundation whose mission is to close the educational opportunity gaps associated with race and income, pursuing this mission by funding research that can inform philanthropy and public policy. Prior, she was a Research Associate Professor at UNC-CH where her main research focus was on early care and education, including follow-up studies of the Abecedarian Project and research concerning ethnicity, income, parenting, childcare and child outcomes. Currently, she serves on the editorial

boards of *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* and *Journal of Marriage and Family*, the Brady Corporation Board of Directors, the University of Rochester Board of Trustees, the Trust for Learning Board, and the Frank Porter Graham Executive Leadership Board. She received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Rochester (Magna Cum Laude; Highest Honors) and her M.A. in Child Clinical Psychology and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from UNC-CH.



Dr. Julia Mendez Smith

Professor of Psychology; Fellow for Campus Climate, UNC Greensboro

Dr. Julia Mendez Smith is a Professor of Psychology at UNC-Greensboro. She is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in understanding ethnic minority children's development and resilience, particularly African American and Hispanic children from low-income communities. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Mendez Smith examines how programs and policies support child development and learning opportunities within the family, school and community settings. She is a co-

investigator with the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families, leading the research agenda on early care and education opportunities for Hispanic children and families in the US.

At UNCG she directs the Parenting and School Readiness Lab, works with students on research projects, and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses.

She also served as the inaugural Chancellor's Fellow for Campus Climate (2016-2021), working on several university initiatives to advance issues of equity and inclusion among faculty, staff and students.



Dr. Michelle Laws

Assistant Director for Consumer Policy and Community Engagement, NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS)

Dr. Michelle Laws is Assistant Director for Consumer Policy and Community Engagement, MH/DD/SAS, NC DHHS. Prior to this, she was Director of Policy and Public Advocacy for the NC National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Dr. Laws' distinguished professional career includes serving as Assistant Director of the Community Health Coalition, Inc; Executive Director of the NC State Conference of the NAACP; adjunct professor at NC Central University and NC State University; and teaching college-transfer courses in federal and state prisons. She also served as legislative liaison for MH/DD/SAS.

Dr. Laws is recognized nationally and internationally as a dynamic speaker, advocate for underserved populations, and has earned respect from diverse communities of peers, colleagues, and policymakers for being a politically astute and diplomatic leader.

She holds a B.A. in Communications from UNC Chapel Hill, a master's in Sociology from NC Central (Magna Cum Laude graduate), and a Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: More about data sharing

See [Dr. Jessie Tenenbaum](#).

Breakout 2: More about student roles



Eliza Edwards

Policy Analyst, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

Eliza Edwards is a Policy Analyst for the North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships, which enhances partnerships between state government and North Carolina's renowned research and philanthropic sectors. In this role, Eliza supports efforts to connect state officials and non-governmental partners on priority policy and programmatic issues, convene public sector and research experts, and provide learning and engagement opportunities for stakeholders across sectors.

Prior to joining the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships, Eliza was a member of Governor Roy Cooper's policy team and before joining the Cooper Administration in 2017, held positions with the World Affairs Council in Portland, Oregon and First United Methodist Church in Waynesville, NC.



Liam Miranda

Graduate Intern, NC Office of Strategic Partnerships

Liam is a second-year MPP student at Duke passionate about innovative, data-driven approaches to social policy challenges in the public sector. He is a graduate intern for the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships where he supports state-wide research partnerships and leads analysis for various projects related to public sector workforce development, COVID-19 impacts, and more.

Additionally, he is the Research and Training Director at the Inclusion Playbook where he designs training curriculums, authors data-driven resources, and improves data infrastructure for sporting organizations looking to improve their equity and inclusion practices. Liam is also involved with data collection and analysis for a variety of current projects — ranging from supporting Durham City Government's COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Task Force to evaluating the sustainability of nonprofit careers. Liam was formerly the Senior Research Manager at the Human Rights Campaign where he led LGBTQ public health research projects.

Breakout 3: More about resource development



Joy Vermillion Heinsohn

Philanthropy Liaison, Office of Strategic Partnerships

Joy Vermillion Heinsohn is the Philanthropy Liaison in the North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships. In this role, the first for North Carolina, her focus is on improving interaction between State government and the philanthropic sector, educating philanthropy and government about each other, and encouraging collaboration on projects across the state. Prior to joining the Cooper Administration, Joy spent over 22 years at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, where she last served as the Assistant Director. She has served on the Board of Trustees

and Board of Visitors of Wake Forest University, the NC Equal Access to Justice Commission, the board of MCNC, the board of the Environmental Grantmakers Association, the steering committee of the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation and was a founding member of the boards of the NC Network of Grantmakers, NC Center for Afterschool Programs, and NC Civic Education Consortium. A native North Carolinian, Joy received a bachelor's degree in Politics from Wake Forest University and a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Breakout 4: More about equity

See [Dr. Julia Mendez Smith](#).

Reflections, highlights, and thank you!



Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Education, UNC Chapel Hill

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, Abd-El-Khalick 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, Abd-El-Khalick has led efforts that have grown enrollment, increased credit hours taught, expanded student and faculty diversity, and boosted research funding.

He has served on the Governor's Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education. Abd-El-Khalick has served as co-editor of the *Journal of Research in Science Teaching* and associate editor of the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, and has held leadership positions in his field.

Before coming to Carolina, 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.



Governor Roy Cooper is the 75th Governor of North Carolina. He was elected in 2016 and is serving his second term.

Read his full bio [here](#).