PMA Foundations | Class of 2026



Ali Wehbi

Structural Engineer III | Department of Administration

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Ali is a dedicated professional who focuses on infrastructure/facility coordination and construction-related planning. He works on facilities layouts, structural solutions, and site-development details that support project delivery. Outside of work, Ali enjoys spending time learning new technical tools and improving workflows.



Alice Saunders

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Alice Saunders is a State Budget Management Analyst with the NC Office of State Budget and Management covering DHHS and General Government agencies. Alice worked with OSBM and DHB for almost 4 years and over 7 years respectively. Prior to State government, Alice spent 20 years in healthcare with focus in budgeting, financial management and decision-support. Alice holds a B.B.A. in Finance from North Carolina Central University and a Master's in Business Administration from Meredith College.



Alicia Hunter

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Alicia is an Accountant IV in the Controller's Office, where she supervises accounting staff and oversees Accounts Receivable and cash management activities. She has worked her way up through the Accounts Receivable Medicaid department during her 10+ years with the Controller's Office, gaining experience and growing into her current leadership role. She takes pride in supporting her staff and considers her team like family, always wanting to see them succeed both professionally and personally.



Amanda Cannon

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Amanda Cannon is the Budget Officer for the Division of State History Museums, with seven years of budgeting experience and ten years of service with the State of North Carolina. She manages the division's budget and supports financial planning, inventory tracking, and spending control. She oversees procurement, purchasing, grants and contracts.



Andrew Feldman

Instructor

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Andrew Feldman leads his consulting practice, the Center for Results-Focused Leadership, that helps public agencies use evidence, data and strategy to improve their results. He previously served at the White House Office of Management and Budget as one of the founding members of the Evidence Team. Prior roles also include a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, Special Adviser for Evidence-Based Policy at the U.S. Department of Education, a Staff Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisors, and one of the top three appointed leaders at Wisconsin's labor department. He earned his PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University and in 2017 was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.



Bailey Bruce

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Bailey is an HR Consultant with the Local Government team at the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR). She has 10 years of experience in state government, including previous work on the Employee Relations team.



Brenda Jernigan

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Brenda Jernigan is the Supervisor for Federal Grants, Office of the Controller for the State of NC for the last 2 years, with a total of 30 years' experience in Accounting/Finance. She obtained a bachelor's degree in business with a minor in accounting from Campbell University and has worked in various financial roles over the years.



Brittany Johnson

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Brittany Johnson serves as the Functional Program Director for the NC Department of Revenue's Transformation Management Office (TMO). With over 20 years of service at the agency, she has gained deep institutional knowledge through roles across numerous divisions and initiatives. Currently, she leads the functional side of the TMO, which will lead the agency's upcoming system replacement, ensuring the agency evolves its processes, technology, and operations to better serve taxpayers across NC.



Catherine Rubin

Director, Accessible Books & Library Services | Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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She's Director of Accessible Books & Library Services, ABLS, under Library of North Carolina at NC DNCR. ABLS is a network library with National Library Service for the Blind & Print Disabled, NLS. She was ABLS's Assistant Director for 14 years and has been Director for four years. She promotes the library, collaborates with other institutions, manages the building and budget, and liaises with NLS and the ABLS Friends. She has a Master's in Information & Library Science from UNC-Chapel Hill.



Christie Norris

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Christie directs DNCR's Office of K-12 Education & Outreach and its Learning Happens Here initiative, elevating K–12 opportunities across 100+ sites through professional development, curriculum design, partnerships, and teacher support. Prior to DNCR, she directed Carolina K-12 at UNC-Chapel Hill and taught in Durham Public Schools. Randolph County born, she now lives in Pittsboro with her family, a mischievous rescue beagle, & two newly adopted kittens who love to cuddle and cause chaos.



Christina Beck

Director, Analysis, Research, and External Affairs | Department of Public Safety

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Christina recently joined the Division of Juvenile Justice and External Affairs following nearly 16 years at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where she oversaw program design, strategic planning, and performance management for USAID's portfolios in Ukraine, Iraq, and El Salvador. At DJJDP, she supports data management, reporting, competitive grants, and policy JJ-wide.



Colie Cashwell

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Colie Cashwell is a Compliance Monitor with the North Carolina Office of State Human Resources, where he supports state agencies with temporary employment compliance, policy guidance, and process improvement. He has nearly 20 years of experience in North Carolina state government and holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from UNC Pembroke. Colie enjoys finding ways to use technology to improve efficiency and streamline everyday work.



Continia Redfearn

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I am a Community Development Specialist, working closely in the loan repayment program to assist licensed healthcare providers to retain healthcare professionals by providing educational loan repayment in exchange for service in underserved communities. I am passionate about strengthening my project management skills, especially in areas such as planning, organizing and communication. On a personal level, I find deep fulfillment in seeing communities grow stronger and more connected.



Crystal Jones

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Crystal L. Jones is a Business Systems Analyst within the Purchase and Contract Division of the Department of Administration, supporting procurement systems and data-driven process improvements. She earned both her MBA and bachelor's degrees from Fayetteville State University. Committed to life-long learning, she brings a forward-looking mindset to her work, with a particular enthusiasm for the implementation of AI and its responsible usage.



Dale Roenigk

Instructor

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Dale Roenigk is semi-retired as a faculty member of the UNC School of Government and director of the North Carolina Benchmarking Project where he served for 17 years. Prior to that, he worked for the State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services doing program evaluation and quality monitoring for mental health services. As part of his academic career, he worked on natural hazards and land use planning research. He began his career in public service working for a policy consulting firm in Washington, DC. Over his career Roenigk concentrated in work focused on data analysis, evaluation, and process improvement. Dale earned a BA from Duke University and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Daniel Sater

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Daniel Sater is a budget analyst for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) where he helps the Divisions of Water Infrastructure and Water Resources understand and manage the State budget process. Daniel has also held senior analyst roles for the NC General Assembly's Fiscal Research Division and the UNC System Office. Daniel enjoys Durham Bulls games, rock climbing, and chasing his toddler around Durham's Life and Science Museum. He holds an MPP degree from the University of Virginia.



Danyae Bellamy

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Danyae Bellamy, MPH, is a Federal Funds Budget Analyst at the NC Office of State Budget & Management, where she supports agencies navigating complex federal funding and disruptions. She blends public health experience with strong analytical skills to help partners make sense of data and keep programs moving. She is known for being warm, thoughtful, and naturally collaborative, she brings steady encouragement to every team she works with.



David Yokum

Head Instructor

Chief Scientist | Office of State Budget and Management

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David Yokum, JD, PhD, serves as North Carolina's Chief Scientist at OSBM. He's also a Professor of the Practice at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Data Science & Society. He was previously Director of The Lab @ DC in the D.C. Mayor's Office and before that, a member of the White House's Social and Behavioral Sciences Team and Director of the U.S. Office of Evaluation Sciences. He works with agencies on how to generate and use evidence within policymaking and daily operations, while also pursuing a research agenda on the psychology of how people change their minds and make decisions. David earned a J.D. and Ph.D. (cognition neuroscience) from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in Bioethics & Medical Humanities from the University of South Florida, and a B.S. in Biology from Birmingham-Southern College. He lives in Chatham County with his wife, Sara, and their two boys, Ethan and Aaron.



Devon Adams

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Devon Adams is a policy analyst committed to working on public safety issues in the State of North Carolina. She is passionate about improving public safety and making government as a whole more accessible to younger generations. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, and above all TRAVELING!



Diane Upshaw MPA

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Diane Upshaw is a Senior Budget Analyst for the Administrative Office of the Courts, with 15 years of budgeting, federal grant management, and fiscal experience. She also has 10 years of non-profit experience and holds volunteer positions as treasurer with 2 of them. She has worked at DHHS and OSBM. She holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from NC State University.



Elizabeth Yelverton

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As the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Public Instruction, Lizzie advocates for the Department's legislative priorities, monitors proposed legislation affecting K-12 schools, and maintains positive working relationships with members of the NC General Assembly. As someone raised on a farm in Wayne County, NC, Lizzie especially enjoys working to expand educational opportunities for students in rural and economically disadvantaged areas.



Erick Mendez

Course Assistant

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Erick Mendez is a State Budget & Management Analyst I with the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management, where he supports the Budget Development section. In this role, he collaborates with state agencies to analyze funding requests, develop budget recommendations, and ensure alignment with the Governor's priorities and fiscal policies. Erick is dedicated to promoting responsible budgeting and effective resource allocation across North Carolina's state government.



Erin Lewandowski

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Erin is the Learning Management and Development Administrator for DPS. She is committed to creating seamless learning experiences and supporting organizational growth through effective training and technology. Outside of work, Erin is an avid outdoors enthusiast who loves spending time on the water, fishing, scuba diving, and hiking.



Felicia Kisselburg

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Felicia Kisselburg has 30 years in developing, managing, and implementing training in the private sector and in state government. She managed training professionals for the AOC. She currently is an HR Consultant with the OSHR. Her role includes administration of Reduction-in-Force, settlements, investigatory leave with pay, and grievances. She obtained degrees in English and Journalism and Mass Communications. She began her career as a newspaper reporter and later authored two history books.



Grace Hardwick

Course Assistant

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Grace Hardwick is a State Budget and Management Analyst at the Office of State Budget and Management collaborating with state leadership to develop strategic plans, analyze financial data, and advise on budget and policy decisions. She holds a Master's of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor's in political science from Trinity University.

Izzy Hernandez-Cruz

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Biography forthcoming.



Joel Jordan

State L&D Manager | Office of State Human Resources

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Joel has served in multiple agencies plus private sector experience in the electronics and biomedical industries. He is a Certified Public Manager®, Senior Mediator with 30+ years in L&D and has earned both Regional and International Best of Show awards. A NC native from Onslow County, Joel enjoys woodworking, playing music and spending as much time as possible with his grandson, Carter. He is also looking forward to the arrival of his second grandson, Wesley, scheduled for November 2026.



Jonathan Davis

Captain | State Highway Patrol

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Captain Jonathan B. Davis is a 29 year veteran of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol currently assigned as the Troop Commander for Troop I Headquarters (Special Operations). Captain Davis oversees a multi-faceted, non-traditional Troop consisting of specialized units across the state. Captain Davis believes in Coach Bobby Knight's belief, "Satisfaction is the first step of defeat." There is always room for improvement or a better way!



Joy Garretson

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Joy is an Enterprise Planning Analyst on the Strategy Team at NCDIT. A former teacher and librarian, her interest in data, public administration, and organizational structure led her to her current role, where she facilitates strategic planning and works with leaders to maximize business value and performance of IT. Joy holds an M.A. English from Mississippi State University, an MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi, and an MPA from UNC-Chapel Hill.

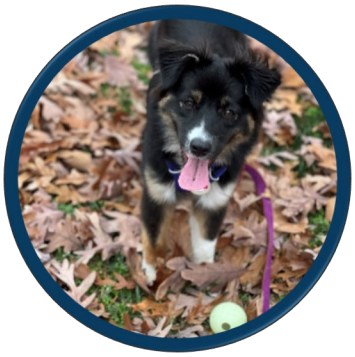


Katie Brewer

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Sr. Budget Analyst with focus on appellate, independent commissions, admin, capital, and inter-government agency contracts. Compiles budgetary data and analysis for the Annual Report, Legislative, and other budgetary related documents. Attended UNC Chapel Hill (Go Heels), Emory University, and is a NC native from Wilmington.



Kelly A Eubank

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Kelly is the section chief of the Government and Heritage Library, part of the Library of North Carolina. In her role, Kelly works with her team to set the Library's direction and with Senior Management to meet the strategic goals of the Library of North Carolina. She loves to read, garden, and spend time with her family



Kim Ferry

Accounting Manager II/Branch Head | Department of Health and Human Services

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Kim Ferry is the Accounting Manager for NC DHHS, leading the Financial Reporting section in the Controller's Office. Her team is responsible for producing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the DHHS Financial Statements. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and has more than 15 years accounting experience, including 10 years at DHHS. She also worked for more than 17 years at the US Postal Service.



Leighann Corbin

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Leighann is a QDS working with the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD), formerly known as Vocational Rehabilitation. She has worked for EIPD for 24 years, starting as a Rehabilitation Counselor before moving to her current role. She spends most of her time doing consultation with EIPD staff, training on policy and procedures, and auditing casework. She lives in Asheville with her husband, has two college-aged kids and two cats.



Mahnaz Rouhani

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Mahnaz Rouhani brings 23 years of private sector experience with two leading multinational gaming companies. She served on several opening teams and traveled internationally to establish operational processes, focusing on process improvement and change management. After moving to North Carolina, she transitioned to public service, where she applies her experience to modernize internal processes and implement meaningful changes with the support of an open minded, forward thinking leadership team.



Marcus Gulley

Payroll Specialist | Office of State Human Resources

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My name is Marcus Gulley. I've worked in Temporary Solutions with OSHR for 6 years now. I oversee the payroll process for Temporary Solutions employees. I'm quiet and curious. I love the outdoors, sports, music, reading, and chess.



Mary Huntley

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Mary Huntley serves as Communications Director for the NC Museum of History, where she provides leadership for strategic communications, media relations, and brand management. In her role, she helps guide institutional vision and cultivates strategic partnerships to advance public engagement initiatives that strengthen the museum's impact. Outside of work, she enjoys time outdoors, playing mahjong with friends, and spending time with her three children.



Megan Webster

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Megan Webster is the Piedmont Area Manager for Community Programs with the Department of Public Safety. She has been with DPS since 2018 providing consulting services to local Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs) and JCPC funded programs. She holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Western Carolina University, with a B.S in Business Administration and Law and Entrepreneurship. Megan also has a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from Duke University.



Melissa Chua

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Meghan is a Program Analyst at the Department of Public Safety, where she provides logistical, administrative, and analytical support to task forces. She has about 10 years of experience in public health and human services. Her work has been in content areas such as adverse childhood experiences, youth violence, and community violence with a focus on evaluation and cross-sector collaboration.



Michael Sagar

Deputy Museum Director | Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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Mike has overseen most sections of the museum (including a brief stint as Interim Director) and is currently focused on the sections/units of Budget, Finance, Security, Facilities, Guest and Volunteer Services, Human Resources, Technology, Evaluation, and the Whiteville Branch. Mike likes to find the balance between long term strategic planning and execution; and day to day operations and team motivation. Mike resides in Raleigh with his wonderful husband and their two dogs Nugget and Noodles.



Natalie McInerney

Accounting Technician | Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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Natalie McInerney is an experienced administrative and accounting professional with a background in education, aerospace, utilities, and public service. She supports financial operations for NC Parks & Recreation with strong organization and clear communication. Natalie is dedicated to growing her professional skills while staying deeply connected to her family and actively engaging in her community by contributing her time and energy to local recreational sports.



Paul Devenish

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Paul Devenish is a Principal Budget Development Analyst at OSBM, covering statewide issues, transportation and information technology. He has worked at OSBM for almost six years, during which time he has also covered capital, salaries & benefits, and community colleges. Prior to joining OSBM, Paul spent more than 20 years working in UK government, principally on healthcare policy / economics and industrial policy, at agencies including the Treasury, Department of Health, and health service regulators. Paul holds a Master's degree in Economics from City University, London, and a B.S. in Politics & International Relations from the University of Southampton.



Petra Mozzetti

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Petra is part of the Policy and Strategy section at DMHDDSUS where she serves as the strategic initiatives manager overseeing the development, implementation, and tracking of the strategic plan. Petra also oversees any new grant applications and the development of new processes and protocols within the section. Petra plays competitive darts with her husband and has an amazing 9-year son named Lucas.



PK Barua

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PK Barua is an Application Development Manager, leading software development initiatives for North Carolina Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention agency. Holding a Computer Science & Engineering degree, he spent 25 years directing IT solutions in the private sector. For the past six years, PK has dedicated his expertise to public service leveraging modern technology, continuous learning, and strategic leadership to optimize state systems and improve outcomes for North Carolina communities.



Ranya Johnson

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Ranya Johnson is an HBCU/MSI Fellow with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, where she supports student programming, outreach, and workforce development initiatives. She is a graduate of UNC Pembroke, where she earned bachelor's degrees in Marketing and Political Science, and she is currently pursuing her MBA. Ranya is passionate about building connections, and creating opportunities for students. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.



Richard (Rick) Marks

Instructor

Professor | UNC School of Data Science and Society

Richard Marks is a new professor at UNC in the School of Data Science and Society with a joint appointment in the department of computer science. Previous to UNC, he was a director and technical project lead at Google ATAP leading an applied research group. Before that, for 19 years Richard was at PlayStation R&D where he founded the PlayStation Magic Lab and helped create the EyeToy, PlayStation Eye, PlayStation Move, and PlayStation VR. He received a BS in avionics from MIT and a MS and PhD from Stanford in robotics. He is listed as inventor on over 100 patents. Currently, Richard is teaching an introductory data science class as well as a capstone, while also conducting research into the combination of generative AI and XR.



Richard Basteri

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Richard Basteri Jr. is a grant manager with the Division of Mental Health, overseeing behavioral health, workforce, and substance use contracts. He focuses on practical compliance and supporting grantees while keeping programs central. He earned degrees from Merrimack College and Northeastern University, attending NU while working in Boston city government. Outside of work, he's working on staying present — usually with his son and his dog, Ollie, and nothing on the schedule.



Sandrea Jiggetts

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Sandrea Jiggetts is a project-driven analyst in the Office of Strategic Advancement, supporting strategic planning, documentation, and data-focused reporting across NCDOT. Sandrea holds a BA from Winston-Salem State and an MPA from NCCU. With three years of DMV experience, Sandrea brings strong operational insight and enjoys cooking and traveling.



Sharon Marsalis, PhD

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Dr. Sharon L Marsalis is the Budget Director with the NC Department of Public Safety. Her primary responsibilities are to provide oversight and financial accountability. She has over 28+ years in state government, all within the budget and finance arena. While working full-time, she earned an associate's degree, 2 bachelor's Degrees, a master's degree, and a Doctorate in leadership, with her dissertation on the Evaluation of Minority Health and Health Disparities Program in North Carolina



Sharrice Blackmon

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Sharrice Blackmon has 27 years of government experience at the municipal, county and now state level. Sharrice has spent the latter half of her years conducting data analytics, performance management, strategic planning, and process improvement. She led the City of Fort Lauderdale through the ISO 9001 certification/recertification process of its Quality Management System by conducting internal audits to assess compliance and also revamped the City's performance management system by creating an automated report that aggregates the performance of departmental metrics. As DOA's program analyst, Sharrice provides insight into agency programs using data and analysis to advance organizational goals and strategies in formulating evidence-based decision making and budgeting. Sharrice earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida and her master's degree from Nova Southeastern University. She's also a PMA Alumni, Class of 2023!



Shaun Gann

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Dr. Shaun Gann serves as the Research Manger for the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. In this role, he manages DAC's internal and external research portfolios, offers strategic insights to senior leadership based on research findings, and supervises DAC's research team. He has conducted criminal justice research for over 15 years in academia, nonprofit organizations, and the federal government. Gann earned his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2017.



Sonya Laney Davis

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Sonya Davis is the K-12 Professional Development and Education Manager for the DNCR's Office of K-12 Education. In her role, Sonya manages the agency's professional development opportunities for classroom teachers, connecting educators and students with curriculum-aligned DNCR resources and programs. She holds a BA in History from NC State and a MA in Museum Studies/ Public History from UNCG. Outside of work, she can be found chasing her toddler, throwing pottery, or begging her garden to live.



Steven DelGrosso

Instructor

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Steve DelGrosso is the CEO of TalosIV, LLC, specializing in delivering Project Management Executive Education and assessing Enterprise organizational project management maturity levels. In his prior role as Director of IBM's Project Management Center of Excellence, he led IBM's Enterprise Project Management Office with teams responsible for the development of IBM's corporate project management methodology, project performance measurement system, and certification education standards. Steve is previous Chair of the Project Management Institute (PMI) Board of Directors and a PMI Fellow. Steve is also Professor of the Practice in the Masters of Engineering Management (MEM) program at North Carolina State University and teaches online in the Master of Project Management Program at Georgetown. Steve received his BSIE and MSc. Degree in Management of Technology from the University of Miami (FL). He also holds professional certifications as a Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Scrum Master (CSM) and Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO).



Tracey Dranttel

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Tracey Dranttel is a public servant who enjoys connecting people, ideas, and communities to make government work better for North Carolinians. She serves as Constituent Services Manager for the Office of the State Auditor and is pursuing a Master of Public Administration at NC State University. A lifelong North Carolinian, Tracey values meaningful relationships, and any opportunity to explore the state she is proud to call home. Outside of work, Tracey enjoys running, swimming, yoga and travel.



Unika Valentine

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Unika is a State Budget Execution Analyst with The Office of State Budget and Management. In her role she helps agencies with their budget responsibilities including Base Budget, Closeout Process, and Carryforward. Review budget adjustment requests to make sure they follow state and federal rules. Monitors agency budgets and expenditures to ensure they are balanced. Unika has over fourteen (14) years of experience working for the State of North Carolina.



Wendy Pendergraph

Instructor

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Wendy Pendergraph is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the NC Department of Secretary of State (NCSOS). She has occupied this role since April of 2024. Previously, she was the CFO with the NC Office of the State Auditor (NCOSA). At NCSOS, she leads the Financial and Business Management division which houses the budget, accounting, procurement, and other administrative functions of the Department. Wendy has 17 years of experience in fiscal and fiscal related disciplines with 11 of those years in state government. During her career in state government, in addition to CFO, she has served as an auditor and as a data analytics engineer. Wendy is a licensed NC Certified Public Accountant with a Masters in Accounting from East Carolina University and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Barton College. She is also a prior graduate of OSBM's Performance Management Academy.



Yalonda Fowler

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Yalonda E. Fowler is a Network Analyst and Supervisor of Telemed within the Dept. of Adult Correction. She has been a State employee for years and have 12 years of experience in Information Technology. She holds a Master's in Information Systems and looking to pursue her PhD in in Forensic Cyberpsychology.