



Amy Bowman

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Amy Bowman is the Director of Business Operations/CFO at the NC Office of State Human Resources with 28+ years of state government experience in accounting, budgeting, fiscal, managerial and grants management. She has worked in a variety of fiscal management roles in five state agencies. Most recently, she served as the Associate VP for State Level Accounting at the NC Community Colleges System.



Andrew Feldman, PhD

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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.



Angel Genao

First Sergeant | State Highway Patrol

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First Sergeant Angel Genao is a 20-year veteran with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. First Sergeant Genao currently works with the Internal Affairs Unit and is responsible for the Eastern Team. He also serves as an Internal Affairs Liaison for the Post Chase Board and instructs basic Internal Affairs classes across the state to different departments.

First Sergeant Genao graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mount Olive University with a BS in Criminal Justice with a minor in Criminology. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps and conducted two tours to Iraq during Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



Anne-Elisabeth Baker, MEM

Policy Analyst | Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

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Anne-Elisabeth Baker is a Policy Analyst within the Office of the Secretary at the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, working to further sustainability initiatives across the agency. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University, where she focused on environmental economics and policy.



Brandy McKoy, DPA

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Brandy McKoy is the Task Force and Community Engagement Director with the NC Department of Public Safety. She has been a career state government employee with 19 years of experience in programs, budget and grant management. She holds a Doctorate in Public Administration, completing her doctoral research on employee retention and job satisfaction in public service agencies.



Brenda Anding

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Brenda Anding has been with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for over ten (10) years. She is currently serving in the role of Assistant Director of Driver services for the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, overseeing back-office and Commercial Driver License operations. During her time with DMV, she has had numerous positions, providing management and operational oversight to Driver License Field and the Mobile Unit operations.



Brian O'Donnell

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Brian O'Donnell is a Senior Policy and Research Analyst at the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. The Policy and Research team provides data-driven insights and policy analysis to support strategic planning, program development, and informed decision-making at the Agency.



Brittany Wilborn

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Brittany Wilborn is a Program Coordinator III at the North Carolina Department of Transportation. In this role, she collaborates with the Grants Management Office to identify federal grant opportunities and develop competitive grant applications for transportation infrastructure projects across the state. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.



Carrie Hollis, MPP

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Carrie Hollis is a Principal Program Analyst at the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management where she helps agency partners build and use evidence to guide program, policy, and operational decisions. She coordinates and advises OSBM's performance management and evidence-based policymaking initiatives and oversees the North Carolina Evaluation Fund grant program.

Carrie earned her master's degree in public policy from Duke University.



Christian Legner

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Christian Legner is the Associate Director at the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island with over 15 years of experience in aquarium science. She works closely with the building operations, animal care, and dive teams to ensure that the facilities support our animals, guests, staff, and mission.



Christopher McCracken

Deputy Chief of Operations | Department of State Treasurer

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Christopher McCracken serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations at the NC Department of State Treasurer. He has helped to lead efforts in automation, efficiency, and cost savings across the NC Department of State Treasurer. He also helped develop the Hurricane Helene Cash Flow loan program.



Clinton Durham, MPA

Eligible Training Provider Coordinator | Department of Commerce
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Clinton Durham has worked with the State of North Carolina for nearly 10 years, 8.5 with the Division of Workforce Solutions and 1 year with the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Most of the roles performed have been in data analysis or program evaluation. He is a great team member, leader, and collaborator who excels in research and program development. In his free time, he enjoys travelling with his wife, twin sons (when they are at home from college), and 2 senior rescue dogs.



Dale Roenigk, PhD

Instructor

Faculty Member | UNC School of Government

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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.



David Yokum, JD, PhD

Head Instructor

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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.



Erica Nunez

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Erica Nuñez is Special Assistant to the Secretary for the NC Department of Environmental Quality and a member of the senior leadership team, coordinating the Department's role as Co-Chair of the North Carolina Energy Policy Task Force and leading the Secretary's stakeholder engagement strategies to strengthen collaboration across various sectors. She also leads the development of executive communications and speeches that amplify the Secretary's leadership voice and advance public understanding of North Carolina's environmental priorities.



Erick Mendez

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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.



Geron Grice

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Geron Grice has been with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for 12 years and currently serves as the Assistant Director for DMV Field Operations. In his role, he ensures field offices receive the support they need to operate efficiently and consistently. He also assist with writing and reviewing policies to help maintain uniform practices across all Driver License offices.



Grace Hardwick

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Budget Analyst | Office of State Budget & Management

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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.



Jackie Parker, MPA

Head Staff

Principal Budget Analyst | Office of State Budget & Management

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Jackie Parker is a Principal Budget Development Analyst at North Carolina's Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) covering justice and public safety agencies as well as statewide reserves. Prior to OSBM, Jackie worked in nonprofit management with an emphasis in organizational strategic planning.

Jackie has a B.S. in Public Health from East Carolina University and a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina State University.



JoAna McCoy, MPA

Program Analyst | Department of Administration

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JoAna McCoy serves as the Program Analyst for NCDOT's Postgrad HBCU Fellowship Program, helping to reimagine talent recruitment and development. JoAna has over a decade of experience designing and scaling balanced talent strategies across government and higher education sectors. She bridges policy and practice creating inclusive workforce pipelines, driving measurable outcomes for underdeveloped communities.



John Felix

Management Engineer & Work Control Supervisor | Department of Administration

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John Felix is the Management Engineer and Work Control Supervisor for the Facility Management Division of the NC Department of Administration. The division performs routine, preventive, and emergency maintenance to State facilities. In addition to managing the Work Control team, he also manages and maintains the division's computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) used to track work orders, inventory, and labor.



Justin Davis, MPA

Instructor

Legislative Affairs Director | Department of Adult Correction

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Justin Davis serves as the legislative affairs director for the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction. Davis has almost two decades of state government experience, six of which have been in legislative affairs roles. Prior to assuming his current role, Davis was a legislative liaison for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Davis has also been an evaluator with the North Carolina General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division. Before that, he served in various roles with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and the North Carolina Department of Justice. Mr. Davis is a proud two-time graduate of North Carolina State University, earning a bachelor's degree in criminology and a Master of Public Administration degree.



Amber Harris

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Deputy Legislative Director | Office of Governor

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Amber Harris is a Deputy Legislative Director in the Office of Governor John Stein. Prior to her current role, she served as Director of Policy and Advocacy at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Amber is Durham native and still resides in there with her cat Levar Burton.



Kristin Walker, MPP

Guest Speaker

State Budget Director | Office of State Budget & Management

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Kristin Walker is the State Budget Director, appointed in 2022. 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.

From 2017 until her appointment, she served as Chief Deputy Budget Director. For over ten years she was a Fiscal Analyst for the NC General Assembly, serving for four years as primary staff to the Senate appropriations chairs and working for nearly seven years on budget issues related to agriculture and natural and economic resources as well as economic development.

Kristin graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and obtained her Master of Public Policy from the Sanford School at Duke University.



Karen Ipock

Associate Director of Education | Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

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Karen Ipock is the Associate Director of Education for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, where she has spent over 15 years leading the development and management of educational and outreach programs for K–12 audiences. Her work focuses on connecting students and educators with the state’s rich historical and cultural resources through engaging, curriculum-aligned initiatives.



Kenneth Kirchner

Project Management Advisor | Department of Information Technology

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Kenneth Kirchner serves as a Project Management Advisor on the NC Department of Information Technology’s Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) team. The EPMO is charged with aiding all state agencies to conform to statute and State CIO mandates regarding IT Project accountability and quality standards.



Kristen Guillory, MPA

Chief of Staff / Senior Advisor, Deputy Secretary for Facilities & Licensure | Department of Health & Human Services

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Kristen Guillory is the Chief of Staff/Senior Advisor for the Deputy Secretary for Facilities and Licensure at the NC Department of Health and Human Services. This role supports state operated healthcare facilities and health service regulation. She previously served as a Policy Advisor in the Office of the Governor and in other positions in state government.

She earned a BA and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Kristie L Weber, MBA

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Kristie L. Weber is a Senior Budget Analyst for the Administrative Office of the Courts, with 18 years of budgeting, federal grant management, and fiscal experience, with 15.5 years in K-12 education. She holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Campbell University, with a B.S. in Communications.



Lauren Scott, MBA

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Lauren Scott is the Staff Development Specialist at the NC Department of Administration (DOA) with almost 10 years in state government. She works in the Human Resources division where she provides quality customer service in performance management (NCVIP) and LMS trainings. She holds an MBA with a specialization in Human Resources Management and a thirst for learning.



Leslie Jones, MA

Program Planner / Evaluator | Department of Health & Human Services

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Leslie Jones is a Program Planner/Evaluator within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She has several years of experience in Data Analytics and over 15 years of experience with DHHS and other state and county government agencies. She holds an MA in Counselor Education from North Carolina Central University and recently earned her Associates in Applied Science degree in Business Analytics from Wake Tech. She is an Army Reserves Veteran and proudly served for 12 years.



Lisa Berot-Marlowe

Business & Project Manager | State Board of Elections

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Lisa Berot-Marlowe is the Business & Project Manager for the State Board of Elections. Lisa has worked as a Software Trainer, Business Analyst, and Project Manager. Her PM experience led to her current position where she is responsible for Budget, Procurement, and Contracts.



Liza Nordstrom

Budget Manager | Department of the Secretary of State

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Liza Nordstrom is the Budget Manager for the NC Department of the Secretary of State. In this role, she manages the budget functions of the department. She has over 20 years of combined experience with financial, audit, budget, and grants management.



Luisa Mahler, MBA

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Luisa Mahler serves as the Senior HR Data Analyst for the Office of State Human Resources with over 20 years of experience in HR, HR data analytics, compensation, and benefits. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Business Administration.



Marissa Hartzler, MEM

Acquisition Program Manager | Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

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Marissa Hartzler is the Acquisition Program Manager for the North Carolina Land and Water Fund (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources), managing a grant program for the permanent protection of ecological, historical, and cultural benefits. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.



Mona Lawson

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Mona Lawson is the Procurement Manager for the NC Department of the Secretary of State. In this role, she manages the entirety of the procurement functions of the department for both IT and non-IT goods and services. She has over 20 years of Procurement & Contract Management (private & public sector) experience and 22 years of Paralegal experience (private sector).



Mona Townes, MA

Workforce Lead | Department of Health & Human Services
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Mona Townes serves as the Workforce Lead at the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services (DMHDDDSUS). She brings nearly 20 years of experience in mental health and substance use services, with expertise in crisis intervention, clinical supervision, and workforce development. Mona holds both a Bachelor and Master of Social Work from East Carolina University.



Paul Devenish, MS

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Principal Budget Analyst | Office of State Budget & Management
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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.



René Hebacker

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René W Hebacker has been a Compliance Analyst for the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency for the past 7 years and has 20+ years of auditing/compliance experience.



Rodney Kapanga

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Rodney Kapanga is an Information Technology Enterprise Architect with the NC Department of Information Technology (NCDIT). He evaluates Technology and Applications, serves as an e-approver for NC State-wide Procurement process, collaborates with Enterprise-wide stakeholders on alignment of Architecture Strategy and Governance in alignment with NCDIT standards. He previously worked with IBM, General Electric and Dell Technologies. He studied Computer Science at Oakwood University and Holds a Graduate Certificate from Harvard Business School in Data Privacy & Technology



Richard Marks, PhD

Instructor

Professor, School of Data Science & Society | UNC Chapel Hill

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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.



Sean P. Callan, MPA

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Sean P. Callan is the Senior Research and Policy Associate with the Administrative Office of the Courts, performing statistical analyses on key performance indicators. He also serves as the grants and contracts coordinator for the Judicial Branch, where he develops budgets, personnel need assessments, expenditure forecasts, and performance reports. He holds an MPA from NC State.



Sharrice Blackmon, MS

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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!



Steve DelGrosso, MEM

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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).



Sherri Hill

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Sherri Hill is an JCPC Area Consultant in the Community Programs section of Juvenile Justice. I have a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy with over 16 years of experience in mental health as a licensed marriage and family therapist. In addition to being a therapist, my professional experience encompasses the roles of being clinical director, grant writer, clinical supervisor, and program development.



Tai Bryant Rochelle, MA

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Tai Bryant Rochelle is a Budget Development Analyst at OSBM covering the Division of Public Health, Division of Health Services Regulation, and Division of Child and Family Well-Being in the Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to joining OSBM, she spent 10 years in client services, grants management, and program administration roles for nonprofit health and human services organizations and a local public health department, focusing on maternal and child health and family strengthening programs.

Tai earned a M.A. in Health Education and Promotion from East Carolina University and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health Education from North Carolina Central University.



Tamietria Rowel

Internal Auditor | Office of State Budget & Management

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Tamietria Rowel is an Internal Auditor for the state's Central Internal Audit Office in the Office of State Budget and Management. She is the lead auditor for the programming side of the division, working on behalf of the Council of Internal Audit to provide strategic oversight, set policies, and support professional development for internal auditors across the state.

Tamietria holds a B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, as well as a Master of Public Administration, both from the University of Alabama.



Thomas Caves, MPA

Grant Programs Manager | Department of Adult Correction

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Thomas Caves serves as Grant Programs Manager for the Department of Adult Correction. He has 27 years with the State, as a full-time grants manager in roles devoted towards locating, obtaining, and administering federal grants, first on behalf of the State Highway Patrol, then with the State Bureau of Investigation, and now for the Department of Adult Correction.

Thomas has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from NC State University, and a Bachelor's Degree from Wake Forest University. He and his wife Joanna live in Garner with their two children, Michael and Grayson.



Thomas Wedell-Wedellsborg, MA, MBA

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Thomas Wedell-Wedellsborg is the author of *What's Your Problem?* (Harvard Business Press, 2020), a book on how to solve the right problems. He is also the co-author (with Paddy Miller) of *Innovation as Usual*, a Harvard Business Review Press book on the art of driving innovation in regular organizations. Thomas has worked with managers in nearly all parts of the globe, including China, India, Russia, Singapore, Britain, France and his native country, Denmark. His research has been featured in Harvard Business Review, The Economist, The Sunday Times, The Telegraph, BBC Radio, Bloomberg Businessweek and the Financial Times. His work on innovation led HR Magazine to recognize him as a "Top 20 International Thinker". Thomas holds an MA in Media Science from the University of Copenhagen and an MBA from IESE Business School. Prior to his business career, Thomas served for four years as an officer with the Danish Royal Guards.



Torie Keeton

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Torie Keeton is the Legislative Liaison at the NC Department of Adult Correction. Using a public health lens, she works as a member of the legislative affairs team on public policy and government relations.



Tyeshia Hill

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Tyeshia Hill has over two decades of experience in juvenile justice and correctional training. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and worked as a Sergeant at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center in Newark, NJ from 1996 to 2006. She served as a Juvenile Court Counselor in North Carolina's District #10 from 2007 to 2017. Currently, she works as a Correctional Training Coordinator I (PREA) providing training and technical assistance on sexual abuse and sexual harassment.



Vann Stancil

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Vann Stancil is the Multi Region and Research Coordinator in the Habitat Conservation Division of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Vann's academic background is in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, and he works on projects and policies to protect and conserve fish and wildlife resources.



Vicky Miller, MS

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Vicky Miller is the Chief of Policy for the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD). Vicky has a MS Degree in Rehabilitation Studies from East Carolina University and has more than 30 years of experience serving North Carolinians with disabilities in achieving their goal of employment and independence.



Wes Kyatt, JD

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Wes Kyatt serves as the Legislative Liaison for the NC Department of Administration. Prior to NC DOA, Wes served as the executive assistant to the Secretary at the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He holds a JD from NC Central University and BA in political science from NC State



Wesley Davis

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Wesley Davis is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR). He is responsible for advocating for OSHR's legislative priorities and interest at the state legislature. As a native of Gaston County, Wesley is passionate about working at the intersection of state government, public policy, and politics to improve the lives of North Carolinians.

He has previously held a variety of roles in political campaigns across the state and as a staffer in the N.C. General Assembly. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Appalachian State University.



Wendy Pendergraph, MA

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.



Wubalem Fantayie, ME

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Wubalem (Ruby) Fantayie currently a Kaizen Program Coordinator, at NCDAC Correction Enterprises where she leads efforts in process and plant layout optimization, continuous improvement initiatives, and feasibility studies. In this role, she also develops and delivers training on Standard Work practices and drives risk analysis and mitigation planning to enhance operational efficiency.

Ruby has nearly 15 years of experience from Caterpillar Inc., where she held a range of roles including Logistics Engineering Manager, Logistics Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Supply Chain Material Planner, and Assembly Planner.

She holds both a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering. Outside of work, Ruby enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends.