NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES | System Conference

North Carolina Community College System Conference

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 203 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Building Inclusive Workforce Pathways: The Life & Work Skills Academy Model

Room 203 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Renee Macemore
Disability Services Director, Wilkes Community College

The Life & Work Skills Academy is a two-year, employer-aligned pathway for students with disabilities, combining life skills, digital literacy, credentialing, job shadowing, and internships. This session shares a replicable model that builds employability, strengthens independence, and prepares students for WDCE credentials or direct employment. Participants gain tools, curriculum structure, and partnership strategies to create inclusive, efficient workforce pipelines.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 204 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Building Practical AI Assistants for Community College Operations

Room 204 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Dr. Dean Roughton
Vice President for Strategy, Transformation, and Effectiveness; Institutional Accreditation Liaison, College of The Albemarle
Jaime Thomason
College of The Albemarle

Participants will learn how to design practical AI assistants that improve access to information, support consistent decision-making, and reduce administrative burden. The session demonstrates how to identify strong use cases, ground assistants in trusted institutional documents, establish guardrails, consider access and scale, and test before broader use. Participants will apply a seven-question, platform-neutral framework to design an assistant around a real institutional workflow. The emphasis is on using the tools available within an institution's environment intentionally and responsibly. A laptop is recommended, and participants are encouraged to bring electronic copies of policies, procedures, handbooks, manuals, or other institutional resources.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 307 **09:00 AM - 02:00 PM**

Canvas Lab

Room 307 | Pre-Conference Workshop

Join the Canvas Implementation Team for an interactive Learning Lab where you can ask questions, share experiences, and discover best practices to help you make the most of Canvas.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 206 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

From Plans to Progress: Using Microsoft Planner Premium's AI Agent to Deliver Results

Room 206 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Monique Williamson
Wake Technical Community College - Scott Northern Wake Campus

Participants will learn how to use Microsoft Planner Premium's AI Agent to plan projects more effectively, gain actionable insights, and improve project reporting. The session will demonstrate how AI can generate project plans, identify risks and dependencies, summarize progress, and create clear leadership-ready updates using real project data. Participants will gain practical strategies for reducing administrative effort, increasing visibility across projects, and supporting data-informed decision-making. The session emphasizes scalable project management practices that strengthen institutional capacity while preserving departmental processes, governance, and accountability.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 303 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

Room 303 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Pre-Conference Workshop

Alisa Montgomery
Piedmont Community College

This session highlights Piedmont Community College's collaboration between Student Development and Instruction to create a comprehensive Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) framework across their curriculum programs in healthcare, public safety, IT, and manufacturing. Participants will explore strategies for awarding academic credit for documented prior learning, including work experience, military training, industry-recognized credentials, and continuing education coursework. Presenters will share their evolving CPL crosswalks, adult learner trends, and discuss how intentional CPL practices promote equity, persistence, and completion. Attendees will learn how CPL benefits students and institutions, while being challenged to think creatively about implementing their own CPL procedures.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301A **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Innovative Resources to Support College Faculty

Room 301A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Pre-Conference Workshop

Andrew McMahan
Central Carolina Community College

Josh Webb
Central Carolina Community College

Tiffany Briendel
Central Carolina Community College

The Environmental and Natural Resource Technology (EARTh) Center, located at Central Carolina Community College and funded by the National Science Foundation, is a National Technology Center focused on providing a wide range of services and resources to college faculty. In this session, Center staff will preview several resources developed by EARTh, including an AI-powered Job Task Analysis tool, a virtual Environmental Safety course, and a series of Extended Reality modules designed for a variety of technical applications. Attendees will also explore ready-to-use instructional tools, learn about professional development opportunities offered by the center, and discover support services available to faculty.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302A **09:00 AM - 03:00 PM**

Introduction to Universal Design for Learning - Pre-Registration Required

Room 302A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Pre-Conference Workshop

Luis Perez
Cast, Inc.

Monica Pascoa
CAST

Vickie Vinson
North Carolina Community College System Office

During this five hour workshop, educators will be introduced to Universal Design for Learning - a research-based framework that boosts engagement and learning outcomes by embedding flexibility into curriculum design from the start. Participants will explore strategies for planning and teaching with learner variability in mind, reducing the need for retrofitting later. Through discussion and reflection, they will identify UDL practices they may already use and learn effective ways to troubleshoot barriers. The session provides tangible strategies and tools that support more inclusive, adaptable lesson development and effective instructional practices across postsecondary learning.Register for Session

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 304 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Leveraging Accreditation to Strengthen Leadership, Policy Implementation, and Public Trust

Room 304 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Amanda Jewett Zekanis
Director of General Education Assessment, North Carolina State University

Amid legislative shifts and growing public skepticism about the value of higher education, institutions must realign their view of accreditation from compliance-driven to one of strategic partnership. Drawing on findings from a study conducted by the presenter, this session examines how participation in SACSCOC training and on-site visit experiences shape college employees' perceptions of their accreditor. Participants will explore how accreditors can strengthen leadership capacity and public accountability efforts. Attendees will gain practical strategies to build accreditation literacy, foster trust-based relationships, and leverage accreditation as a powerful mechanism for demonstrating institutional quality and value to stakeholders.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302C **09:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

Leveraging the AAS: Innovative Pathways to Bachelor's Completion and Workforce Success

Room 302C | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Emily Heaberlin
Appalachian State University

Erin Lewis
Appalachian State University

Kevin Sutton
Associate Professor, Appalachian State University

Lori Eberly
App State

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

How can higher education better serve the transfer student while meeting workforce demands? Participants will explore three distinct bachelor's completion models at App State designed to improve transfer efficiency and workforce alignment. Panelists will demonstrate how these models reduce cost and time to completion, strengthen partnerships with community colleges and employers, and create coordinated pathways for diverse student populations. Specifically we will discuss our AAS-to-BS Health Sciences, multi-disciplinary Professional Studies (BS), and Organizational Leadership and Learning (BS) majors and how we've utilized block credit and experiential learning to meet program requirements.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 201 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Navigating Industry Alignment: Scaling the BILT Model Across 13 CTE Programs

Room 201 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Brian Worley
Johnston Community College

Ryan Bradshaw
Johnston Community College

Participants will learn how Johnston Community College implemented the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) Model across 13 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to strengthen employer engagement and align curriculum with workforce needs. This session will outline a practical implementation framework, meeting protocols, KSA validation strategies, and lessons learned from scaling the model. Attendees will gain tools to increase advisory engagement, collect actionable industry feedback, and translate employer input into measurable program improvements. Participants will leave with adaptable templates and a step-by-step approach for launching or expanding the BILT Model at their own institutions.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 402 **09:00 AM - 03:30 PM**

NCCCS Perkins Team

Room 402 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301B **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Offering Curriculum Through Continuing Education: A New Approach

Room 301B | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Jeffrey Zack
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Jennifer Osborn
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Participants will learn how community colleges can offer existing curriculum courses through continuing education while maintaining academic rigor. This approach expands access for working professionals, reduces cost barriers, and supports workforce needs. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to better connect curriculum and continuing education, improve access to courses, and create clear pathways into degree programs. The session will also share key steps, lessons learned, and considerations for implementing this model across departments to support long-term success.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 205 **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Pathfinders: Helping Students Find a Career Path

Room 205 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Pre-Conference Workshop

David Malenick
Central Carolina Community College

Timothy Barnes
Central Carolina Community College

Becoming career pathfinders. The problem is that we have focused more on promoting education than careers. Administrators, instructors, and support staff must help students find a path to a life purpose career. My colleague and I have created an organization to help students prepare for a career after graduation. This includes knowing their options, selecting colleges, matching personality to career, and understanding the value of volunteering and internships. Attendees will learn how we created the organization, hear about overcoming obstacles, and share ideas in an open discussion about how to build a career path within the discipline they teach.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305A **09:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

Reducing Transition Shock: A Workforce Strategy for Practice-Ready Nurses

Room 305A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Pre-Conference Workshop

Chelsea Mitchell
ADN Student Success Specialist/ Nursing Faculty, Durham Technical Community College

This session reframes nursing student success as a workforce stabilization strategy. Participants will explore how transition shock, imposter syndrome, and gaps in professional identity contribute to attrition, licensure challenges, and early-career burnout. The presentation introduces a proactive, student-centered framework that integrates advising, social-emotional skill development, and structured professional formation to strengthen persistence and employment outcomes. Attendees will gain practical tools to move beyond remediation and intentionally design systems that prepare graduates for the emotional and professional realities of nursing practice, strengthening both completion outcomes and the long-term nursing workforce pipeline.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306A **09:00 AM - 01:00 PM**

SACSCOC Class of 2029 Working Group

Room 306A | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302B **09:30 AM - 04:00 PM**

NCCCS CRM Preconference Institute

Room 302B | Pre-Conference Workshop

Hands-on event designed to provide colleges with both strategic and technical support related to CRM implementation and optimization. Pre-registration is required.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305B **10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

CCPRO: Community College Planning and Research Organization

Room 305B | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 304 **10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

AI Ready Students: Intentionally designing AI literacy into coursework for Career-Ready Graduates

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Pre-Conference Workshop

Gisele Taylor Wells
Department Chair, Forsyth Tech Community College

Karyn Reilly
Associate Professor, Forsyth Tech Community College

This session explores how faculty in a creative, arts-based program are intentionally designing AI literacy into coursework to support career-ready graduates. Presenters will share a program-developed AI Fluency Progression that builds from foundational skills and authorship to verification, accountability, and professional judgment. Participants will examine successful and unsuccessful examples of student AI use while considering ethical, environmental, and student-choice concerns. Through discussion and small-group activities, attendees will apply a Protect–Support–Prepare–Choice framework to identify where AI can appropriately fit within their own courses or programs.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306B **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Expanding Access: Practical Translation Tools for Multilingual Community Colleges

Room 306B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Rachel Hall
Central Piedmont Community College

Community colleges across North Carolina are serving an increasingly multilingual student population, yet many instructors are English-only speakers. This session highlights practical, scalable technology tools — Microsoft Translator, Pocketalk, HeyGen, and PowerPoint Live Translation — that support communication and bilingual instructional access without requiring faculty fluency. Participants will learn how these tools have been successfully implemented to enable English-only instructors to teach courses in a bilingual format for novice English speakers. Through live demonstrations and real-world examples, attendees will explore strategies to strengthen student engagement, reduce language barriers, and expand equitable access across diverse community college classrooms.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 203 **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

From Innovation to Publication: Turning Teaching Practice into Practitioner Scholarship

Room 203 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Pre-Conference Workshop

Elizabeth Braun
Catawba Valley Community College

Meret Burke
Wilkes Community College

Participants will learn how to transform course redesigns, instructional innovations, and action research into publishable practitioner scholarship. This interactive workshop will guide attendees through a practical framework for defining a problem, articulating an intervention, identifying evidence, and connecting practice to relevant research. Participants are encouraged to bring a current initiative or instructional challenge. By the end of the session, attendees will have a structured outline for a potential article and a clearer understanding of how their work could contribute to the North Carolina Community College Journal of Teaching and Innovation and strengthen student success, workforce preparation, and institutional capacity.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301A **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

From QEP Concept to Scaling Generative AI (GAIM) for Institutional Impact

Room 301A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Donna Marshall
Craven Community College

Jenifer Marquis
Craven Community College

Kathleen Gallman
Craven Community College

This session highlights how a QEP concept evolved into a college-wide initiative addressing generative artificial intelligence. Leveraging an appreciative inquiry mindset, leaders from a mid-size community college discuss how a cross-functional team from Instruction, Institutional Effectiveness, Student Services, IT, and Teaching and Learning designed and scaled the Generative AI Momentum (GAIM) initiative to build institutional capacity. Presenters will share key components of the initiative, including garnering leadership support, policy and procedure development, and data collection and analysis aimed at continuous progression of teaching and learning.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 303 **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

North Carolina Community College Advising Association (N3C2A)

Room 303 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 206 **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

See the Whole Picture: Managing Portfolios and Roadmaps with Microsoft Planner

Room 206 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Monique Williamson
Wake Technical Community College - Scott Northern Wake Campus

Participants will learn how to use Microsoft Planner's Portfolio and Roadmap capabilities to manage multiple projects with improved visibility and alignment. The session demonstrates how leaders and teams can track progress across initiatives, identify risks and competing priorities, and align work to institutional goals. Participants will gain practical strategies for producing clear portfolio-level reporting, supporting data-informed decision-making, and reducing administrative effort. By attending, participants will learn how to move from siloed project tracking to a coordinated, broader view of work.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302C **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Teaching Writing in the Age of AI: Building Prompt Literacy and Ethical Collaboration

Room 302C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Pre-Conference Workshop

Michelle Ford
College of the albemarle

This session explores how writing instruction is evolving in the age of artificial intelligence. Participants will learn practical strategies for integrating AI into writing assignments while maintaining academic integrity and student voice. The presenter will demonstrate how prompt design can function as a new form of writing literacy and share classroom-tested activities that guide students to analyze, revise, and humanize AI-generated drafts. Participants will leave with adaptable assignment models, prompt-writing frameworks, and strategies that help students collaborate ethically with AI while strengthening critical thinking and writing skills.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306C **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Wake Tech Student Ambassadors

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Dalynn Bass
Wake Tech

Edivan Solano
Wake Technical Community College

Wake Tech's Student Ambassador Program has many functions, but its primary mission is to provide role models and mentors for current and prospective students. Participants will be exposed to what Student Ambassadors do, from the application process through when their shift starts, and what participants and Wake Tech gain by the end of their ambassadorship. Participants will learn how Wake Tech Institutionally supports the ambassadors and the benefits that both Wake Tech and the ambassadors receive, and how this could benefit other institutions as well.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 201 **11:00 AM - 02:00 PM**

Health Science Deans Group Meeting

Room 201 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

Health Sciences Deans from across the North Carolina Community College System will convene for a pre-conference session facilitated by the NCCCS System Office to strengthen collaboration and statewide alignment. Participants will engage in discussions on emerging trends in healthcare education, workforce needs, regulatory updates, and program development impacting health science programs. The session will provide an opportunity to share institutional challenges, highlight promising practices, and explore strategies that support program quality and student success. Participants will gain updates on statewide initiatives and leave with insights and resources to help align local program planning with workforce demand and system priorities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306C **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

AI for All: A Novice-Friendly Guide to Streamlining Workflows Across the Community College

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Carrie Lineberry
Randolph Community College

In this interactive session, participants explore practical artificial intelligence (AI) applications to enhance efficiency across community college departments. The session demonstrates how AI assists with workflow automation, including drafting syllabi, course schedules, and grading rubrics. Attendees gain hands-on experience leveraging AI as novice users to streamline communications, documentation, and student support strategies. Participants will learn to use various AI tools effectively to reduce administrative burden while fostering innovative institutional environments. This session provides a practical, role-agnostic roadmap for instructors, staff, and administrators to integrate responsible technology use into their daily routines.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 204 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Building Employer-Aligned Pathways: Lessons from RISE Caldwell-Watauga's 1st Year

Room 204 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Tara Brossa
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

This presentation explores how RISE Caldwell-Watauga connects high school students to college coursework, apprenticeships, and paid work-based learning through strong employer partnerships and cross-sector collaboration with local schools, economic development entities, and industry partners. Modeled on the successful Surry-Yadkin Works approach, the program streamlines communication, expectations, and apprenticeship processes, while reducing barriers and strengthening regional talent pipelines. Early wins and lessons from their 2026 cohorts will spark discussion, with participants sharing strategies to replicate coordinated, employer-connected pathways that align education with workforce needs and support student success across communities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306B **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

College Transfer Program Association (CTPA)

Room 306B | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 203 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

ECHO-NC (English, Communication, Humanities Organization)

Room 203 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301A **01:00 PM - 04:00 PM**

Investing in Instruction: NC3MI Master Instructor Recognition & Collaboration Session

Room 301A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Pre-Conference Workshop

Lane Freeman
State Director of Online Learning, North Carolina Community College System Office

This pre-conference session brings together North Carolina's NC3MI Master Instructors — both new completers and returning alumni — for an afternoon of recognition and collaboration. The session opens with formal recognition of this year's cohort and past graduates, including presentation of Gold Medallions and certificates. Participants will then reflect on NC3MI's impact on teaching and learning across the System before engaging in structured, hands-on collaboration to share best practices and instructional strategies from their classrooms. The session closes with a forward-looking discussion focused on scaling the Master Instructor model at individual institutions and expanding its reach statewide.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305A **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Leveraging NSF ATE: Strategies to Elevate Programs, Outcomes, and Opportunities

Room 305A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Brian Worley
Johnston Community College

David Oliver
Johnston Community College

Ryan Bradshaw
Johnston Community College

The NSF ATE program provides community colleges with opportunities to prepare students as skilled technicians, yet most NC Community College System institutions lack active grants. This session highlights how Johnston Community College secured multiple NSF ATE awards, leading to expanded training opportunities, enhanced equipment and infrastructure, and national conference engagement. Participants will learn how these efforts strengthened industry partnerships, supported innovative learning environments, and improved student engagement, career readiness, and enrollment. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to develop competitive proposals and leverage NSF ATE funding to elevate programs, outcomes, and opportunities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301B **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Licensed to Inform: Navigating the Twists, Turns, and Truths of State Authorization Professional Licensure & Certification

Room 301B | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Pre-Conference Workshop

Amanda Carter
Director of Distance Education, Central Carolina Community College

Clarke Burleson
Isothermal Community College

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

J. Edward Ladenburger
Carteret Community College

Michael Ward
Registrar, Wilkes Community College

Professional licensure and certification state authorization requirements shape program design, student communication, and institutional risk — and they continue to change. In this informative session, the VLC State Authorization Team will provide a clear, practical update on licensure and certification requirements affecting North Carolina Community Colleges. Presenters will outline current disclosure expectations, highlight common compliance challenges across NCCCS institutions, and share best practices for documenting licensure alignment. Attendees will also learn strategies for communicating accurate, timely information to students when programs do not meet licensure requirements in specific states.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 304 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Navigating the Shift: Preparing Industry Experts for Community College Teaching Roles

Room 304 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Katlyn Foy
Agriculture Instructor, James Sprunt Community College

Laurie Freshwater
Carteret Community College

Nicole Thompson
Carteret Community College

Zakaria Jouaibi
UNC-Wilmington

Community colleges increasingly rely on industry professionals to teach in CTE programs, yet many new instructors enter with limited training in teaching and assessment. This presentation highlights a seven-month New CTE Instructors' Academy, funded through Perkins Leadership Funds, to support their transition into community college instruction. In partnership with UNC Wilmington's Workforce Learning and Development program, the Academy offers expert-led sessions and the option to earn prior-learning credit toward a bachelor's degree. Topics include classroom management, instructional strategies, curriculum development, and assessment. Presenters will share program design, lessons learned, and practical tools to strengthen onboarding and improve student outcomes.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305B **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

NC Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP)

Room 305B | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 303 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

NC Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP)

Room 303 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302C **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

NC Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP)

Room 302C | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 206 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Planning with Precision: Mastering Microsoft Planner AI Agent, Portfolios, and Roadmaps

Room 206 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Monique Williamson
Wake Technical Community College - Scott Northern Wake Campus

Participants will learn how to use Microsoft Planner Premium's AI Agent, Portfolios, and Roadmaps to bring structure, clarity, and control to projects. The workshop will demonstrate how AI can assist with project setup, reveal cross-project risks, and translate progress into meaningful portfolio views for leadership. By attending, participants will strengthen their ability to lead coordinated work efforts across teams, while maintaining transparency and focus on institutional goals.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306A **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

Turning Data Into Direction: Strengthening Institutional Effectiveness Through Dashboards

Room 306A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Vincent Castano
Fayetteville Technical Community College

This session demonstrates how colleges can build internal capacity to design, develop, and sustain effective dashboards that support institutional strategy and student success priorities across the institution. Participants will learn a practical framework for moving from raw data to actionable visuals, establishing data governance, defining meaningful metrics, and cross-departmental collaboration. Attendees will leave with a replicable approach, tools, and implementation strategies to create dashboards that strengthen institutional effectiveness, increase transparency, and empower confident, data-informed decision-making.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305B **02:00 PM - 05:00 PM**

Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC) Community College Compliance Self-Study Workshop

Room 305B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Pre-Conference Workshop

Jenn Gardner Selby
Dean, General Education & Transfer, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

This session will be led by TAC members (NCCC and UNC institutions) and will feature an informal discussion and facilitated workshop for community college leaders who want to learn more about the upcoming Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) compliance reviews. This session is appropriate for individuals or for campus teams who want to learn more about the new compliance process as it pertains to local transfer practices.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 205 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

An Essential Investment in Health Sciences: Centering Students Through Stackable Pathways and Workforce-Aligned Design

Room 205 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Elisabeth Blevins
Wilkes Community College

Tammy Beck
Wilkes Community College

Participants will learn how Wilkes Community College redesigned Health Sciences education to center students while aligning credentials to workforce demand. The session demonstrates how a new AAS Health Sciences pathway uses stackable credentials, multiple on-ramps and off-ramps, and employer-aligned work-based learning to improve access, completion, and job readiness. Participants will gain practical strategies for building unified foundational curricula, strengthening clinical and employer partnerships, and creating efficient, scalable pathways that support diverse learners and the future healthcare workforce.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 201 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Answering Your Advisory Committees' Requests: Practical Integration of the Skills USA Framework & Employability Skills into in Every Course

Room 201 | Concurrent Session

Empowering Employability: Practical Integration of the SkillsUSA Framework in College Postsecondary Instruction, including: - Describing the components of the SkillsUSA Framework and exploring how they align with employability demands in today's workforce - Evaluating available SkillsUSA curriculum tools and resources for College Postsecondary instructors, including free options for professional members - Identifying opportunities to embed Framework and Employability elements into existing CTE curriculum without requiring structural changes - Applying a simple strategy to intentionally deliver and reflect on Framework and Employability skills with students in any instructional format - Participating in hands-on activities to map SkillsUSA Framework and Employability elements ...

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302C **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Education and Training in Prison: On-Ramps to Credentialing, Further Education and Successful Reentry into Society

Room 302C | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Devin Baucom
Stanly Community College

Jason Miller
Director of Correctional Education, South Piedmont Community College

Jay Lively
Asheville Buncombe Communinity Technical College

Michael Tildsley
NCCCS

Dallas Herring believed in the "incomparable worth of all human beings" and how important it is to "take people from where they are, as far as they can go." The journey from prison to reentry and career success is arduous, but community colleges are partnering with prisons to ease the journey for thousands incarcerated in North Carolina. All are welcome to this session to learn from local leaders in prison education who are charting new pathways for students, while building partnerships within and between educational institutions. The session will also tap audience members involved in prison education to share their ...

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305A **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

From Design to Delivery: Interim Findings on Developmental Education Implementation

Room 305A | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Ashley Parrott
State Director of Developmental Education & College Readiness, North Carolina Community College System

Emily Smail
North Carolina Community College System

This presentation will share early insights around developmental education model selection and implementation across North Carolina Community Colleges. Presenters will describe models adopted by institutions and highlight enrollment and success during the first full year of implementation, broken down by model and student demographics. Further, the session will address frequently asked questions related to model design, placement, and operational considerations, and solicit feedback from attendees on contextual factors that are shaping early outcomes. Participants will leave with knowledge of enrollment patterns and a deeper understanding of effective practices in the new developmental education models, providing guidance for continuous improvement.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301B **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

From Login to Fluency: Real Classroom Uses of BurlingtonEnglish

Room 301B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Katherine Maidman
Cape Fear Community College

In this interactive session, we will explore how to bring greater rigor to the ESL classroom by using BurlingtonEnglish as a springboard for meaningful conversation, creative in-class activities, and innovative learning opportunities. Using Cape Fear Community College's ESL program as a "case study," we will examine BurlingtonEnglish's role in student engagement and learning gains, and identify effective strategies for improving overall ESL program success. Participants will leave equipped with practical approaches to support and advance the learning journey of English language learners. Please bring your own device.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 206 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

From Training to Transformation: Modernizing Workforce Development Across 58 Colleges

Room 206 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

John Loyack
North Carolina Community College System

This panel discussion will explore how the NCCCS Economic Development Division is modernizing workforce training through data-driven planning and industry insights. Attendees will learn how colleges can leverage these programs to meet emerging employer needs and position themselves as strategic economic development partners. Panelists from 3 colleges will join the facilitator, John Loyack

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 203 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Going Back to our Roots: Rethinking the Writing Process in College Composition

Room 203 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Angela Nezat
Coastal Carolina Community College

Bethany Hunter
Coastal Carolina Community College

Cara Ketchum
Coastal Carolina Community College

Teresa Adams
Coastal Carolina Community College

Artificial intelligence has reshaped the landscape of college composition, prompting instructors to rethink how to ensure our students are learning. This presentation revisits the foundational principles of project- and portfolio-based learning, demonstrating how "old-school" approaches can be effectively integrated with emerging technologies. Participants will explore strategies applicable to seated, hybrid, and online learning environments and will review examples of successful assignments and assessment practices. This session will be valuable to anyone who teaches extended or process-driven writing projects.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306B **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Learning Beyond the Classroom: Creating and Measuring Student Learning Outcomes Through Collaboration with Student Life

Room 306B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Dr. "Alen" Richard Doty
Director of Student Life, Engagement, Leadership Development; Chair, NCCCS Student Life Advisory Board, South Piedmont Community College
Sarah Shannon-Mohamed
Director, Student Engagement, Central Carolina Community College

At two-year colleges, some of the most meaningful learning happens through co-curricular programs such as student leadership, academic organizations, service projects, campus engagement, and workforce preparation groups. This session will explore how colleges can intentionally design learning experiences outside the classroom and measure their impact through clearly defined learning outcomes. Participants will learn why collaboration across departments is essential for creating meaningful co-curricular learning opportunities. The session will highlight how student life professionals, faculty, and staff can work together to create measurable outcomes that support institutional goals and student success.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 303 **02:30 PM - 05:00 PM**

NC Association of Community College Presidents (NCACCP)

Room 303 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306C **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

NCCCS Data Dashboard Overview: Using System-Wide Data to Inform Local Decisions

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Elizabeth Stoddard
North Carolina Community College System Office

This session will provide a high-level overview of the NCCCS data dashboards and how they support data-informed decision-making at the college level. Participants will learn how to access and navigate the dashboards, identify relevant content, and locate key features such as data disaggregation and peer comparisons. The session will also demonstrate the NCCCS Power BI portal, which allows colleges to access student-level data to complement the summary information available in the public-facing dashboards. This session is designed for college staff who may be new to system-wide NCCCS data resources.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 304 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Strengthening Rural Healthcare Workforce Pathways Through Health Science Success Coaching

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Valerie Dobson
McDowell Technical Community College

As North Carolina faces growing healthcare workforce shortages, rural community colleges play a vital role in preparing nursing students. However, many Associate Degree Nursing students encounter barriers that impact persistence and completion. This study examined health science success coaching as a student-centered intervention across six community colleges. Using propensity score matching, findings show improved persistence, academic performance and completion while strengthening students' sense of belonging and self-efficacy. Results demonstrate that structured coaching is a scalable strategy to improve student success, strengthen workforce pathways, and expand access to high-demand healthcare careers while building institutional capacity and supporting future workforce needs.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 307 **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

Strengthening Student Success Outcomes Through Access to Achievement and Departmental Collaboration

Room 307 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Dr. Courtney Knox
Access to Achievement Coordinator, South Piedmont Community College

This interactive workshop explores how institutions can strengthen student success for students with disabilities by fostering collaboration across departments and utilizing initiatives such as Access to Achievement. Participants will examine equity gaps, identify barriers to persistence and completion, and develop coordinated approaches that connect various college departments. Through discussion and practical planning activities, attendees will leave with actionable strategies to improve cross-functional communication, align institutional goals, and implement targeted supports that advance measurable student success outcomes for all students.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Grand Ballroom **02:30 PM - 03:30 PM**

The NCCCS Canvas Playbook: Building a Seamless Systemwide Experience

Grand Ballroom | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Birch Barnes
North Carolina Community College System Office

Chris wasko
Project Manager

Dave Dick
Instructure

Katherine Davis
North Carolina Community College System Office

This session explores the NCCCS Canvas journey from the initial System Office and institutional kickoffs through full-scale deployment. The presenters outline the collaborative implementation process, highlighting versatile Canvas features that align with teaching and learning goals while supporting diverse institutional needs. Beyond the rollout, the session showcases the “big picture” structure of the NCCCS centralized hub for accessing training, 24/7 help, and strategic resources. Attendees will see how this unified framework — along with regional roadshows — builds lasting capacity and ensures all fifty-eight colleges have a clear path to success within a single, cohesive digital environment.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Exhibit Hall **03:30 PM - 03:45 PM**

Break

Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 204 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

A-Idea™: Breaking Education

Room 204 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Zac Schnell
Pamlico Community College

Participants will explore what education science has long suggested and what AI is now forcing: the traditional assessment model is broken. This session examines how the shift from "what do you know" to "what can you do" is not just a pedagogical preference; it is an institutional survival skill. Attendees will leave with research-backed frameworks for redesigning courses and online instruction around practical competency, strategies for building curricula that teach adaptability rather than recall, and AI-informed tools that help instructors create assessments worthy of human potential in an AI-integrated world.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 206 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Artificial Intelligence Professional Development/Alignment Project (AI PD/AP) Updates

Room 206 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Hilmi Lahoud
NCCCS

Joey Bryant
Forsyth Technical Community College

This session will present the outcomes of the 2026 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Development and Alignment Project. The presentation will include an overview of newly developed courses, industry partnerships, implementation efforts, best practices, and access to industry resources and course materials. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302A **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Beyond Free Pizza: Best Practices for Student Engagement and Advising Through Meaningful Micro Moments

Room 302A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

C'erra Parks
Johnston Community College

Tanisha Payne
Johnston Community College

When a slice of pizza no longer drives engagement, institutions must rethink connection. The greatest impact often comes from the smallest moments. This session explores how micro moments-intentional, low-cost, high-touch interactions enhance advising, success coaching, and student engagement to build belonging and motivation. Featuring the Boost Program at Johnston Community College, learn how "Big Skills in Small Doses," Rep Your Orange Wednesdays," and pop-up coaching create meaningful experiences from "app to cap." Discover scalable strategies for diverse learners and limited resources, and leave with a practical toolkit to strengthen retention and turn everyday interactions into lasting student success outcomes.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306C **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Boosting Student Success at Scale

Room 306C | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Michelle Lair
North Carolina Community College System Office

Nicole Ditillo
Boost Program Director, NC Community College System Office

Boost is North Carolina's newest student success initiative, designed to improve post-completion outcomes in high-demand workforce sectors. This session explores how Boost applies evidence-based strategies — structured advising, targeted financial supports, and clear academic-to-career pathways — at scale, and how similar approaches can be adapted across community colleges. Participants will hear lessons from early implementation, including how to align student success efforts with workforce priorities, use data to drive decisions, and balance fidelity to a proven model with local contextualization. Attendees will leave with practical, actionable ideas to strengthen persistence, completion, and career outcomes at their own institutions — whether …

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 202 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Bridging the Gap: Using NC LIVE Resources to Support Early College and Transfer Success

Room 202 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Claire Leverett
NCLIVE

Jennifer Arnold
Central Piedmont Community College

Staci Wilson
Catawba Valley Community College

This session demonstrates how to use NC LIVE resources to strengthen pathways for dual enrollment and transfer students. By integrating standardized resources, such as LearningExpress for career readiness and ProQuest for academic preparedness, colleges can modernize onboarding and support students throughout their academic careers and into the workforce. Because NC LIVE resources are available statewide, students possess a portable toolkit of high-quality academic resources that travels with them. This student-centered approach ensures that whether a learner is at a community college or a university, their foundational resources remain constant, significantly improving student success and smoothing the transfer pathway.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 10 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Building Belonging and Persistence in Gateway Psychology Courses

Table 10 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Mary Gourley
Gaston College

Participants will learn how team-based learning can improve engagement, persistence, and transferable skill development in introductory psychology courses across community college and dual enrollment contexts. The session demonstrates how structured teams, readiness assurance, and application-focused activities support early student success while preserving academic rigor. Participants will gain practical strategies for adapting team-based learning to diverse classroom settings, including high school campuses, and will leave with implementation ideas that foster collaboration, accountability, and career-relevant skills aligned with student-centered pathways.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 304 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Building Momentum: How Intentional SEM Strategy Fueled Enrollment Growth

Room 304 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Ashlyn Wilson
Associate Vice President of Advising and Onboarding, Nash Community College

KJ Askew
Director, Marketing & Strategic Engagement, Nash Community College

Marcus Lewis
Nash Community College

Wendy Cook
Nash Community College

Nash Community College is building on sustained enrollment growth, surpassing 3,000 students in Fall 2025 for the first time since 2019. Since Fall 2023, the college has achieved over 17.2% growth. This progress reflects a dual approach: an Enrollment Workgroup focused on short-term strategies and a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Council driving long-term planning, culminating in the institution's inaugural SEM plan. This session will highlight the roadmap for developing that plan and the intentional alignment of marketing, recruitment, and onboarding efforts to strengthen the early stages of the enrollment funnel and drive measurable growth.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 201 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Career Advising Multiverse: Connecting Systems That Guide Every Learner

Room 201 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Dr. Jennifer McLean
North Carolina Community College System Office

Laura Maldonado
Senior Associate, State Policy, Advance CTE

Career pathways only work when learners can successfully navigate them. Yet career advising is often fragmented across K–12 schools, colleges, workforce agencies, and community partners, leaving learners to piece together information on their own. This session introduces the Connected Career Advising framework developed by Advance CTE, which helps states and institutions build coordinated advising ecosystems that support learners throughout their education and career journey. Participants will explore the four core elements of effective advising systems: clearly defined advising roles, consistent structures and routines, sustained professional development, and strong cross-sector collaboration.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 306B **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Centering Students in the Lab: Teaching Leadership and Technical Skills Through Cross-Program Collaboration

Room 306B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Jennifer Picher
Department Chair MLT, Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College

Participants will explore a cross-program teaching model that centers students as instructors in a molecular laboratory experience using portable PCR technology. Medical Laboratory Technology students guide Veterinary Technology students through PCR and gel electrophoresis while developing leadership, communication, and workforce-ready skills. Participants will learn how to design similar interprofessional lab experiences, structure student teaching roles, and assess leadership and technical competency in collaborative learning environments.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 301B **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Connecting Students, Institutions, and Employers Through Strategic Career Planning

Room 301B | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Jamie Vaughn
NC Department of Commerce

This interactive session demonstrates how Career Development Plans (CDPs) in NCcareers.org can be used by students, universities, and employers across North Carolina. Attendees will learn the components of a CDP and how that information can be leveraged to achieve success. Higher education professionals will leave with an understanding of the career planning that future students will have already completed prior to arrival on campus and how they can leverage that knowledge to better serve students. Employers will leave with knowledge of how CDPs can help better prepare job seekers for available opportunities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 6 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Curiosity not Judgment in Academic Support

Table 6 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Amanda Phillips
Guilford Technical Community College

Shannon Grayson
Academic Achievement Specialist, Guilford Technical Community College

Tammy Maddox
Guilford Technical Community College

This presentation will provide a guideline for supporting students by intensively reviewing their academic history, approaching conversations with guided questions, and individualizing plans based on evidence of students' past success. The presentation will include an overview of how appreciative advising, intrusive advising, and prescriptive advising combined help determine inquiry approaches. The presentation will also define the important metrics to consider when crafting a plan for the development of student learning habits and skill development. The presenters will share real student examples from various student groups, including transfer track, career technical, and students with intellectual disabilities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 12 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Customer Service in the College Classroom

Table 12 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Amanda Guy
Professor, Sociology, Nash Community College

The community college customer is the community college student! While high-quality customer service can be easy to identify in some areas of the community college model, it's much harder for faculty to be sure they are providing high-quality customer service in an environment where course objectives, expectations, and grades exist. This session will be an insightful exploration of what customer service feels like to students within our college classrooms. Participants will gain insight from student surveys and focus groups, and then explore, share, and examine best practices that have been uncovered and discovered.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 307 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Designing an Integrated Academic-Workforce Pathway: Launching a Sustainable Early Childhood Academy

Room 307 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Jodi York
Nash Community College

Participants will learn how to establish a sustainable Early Childhood Workforce Ready Academy that integrates academic instruction with workforce preparation to address the urgent need for qualified teachers. The session provides a step-by-step implementation model that covers curriculum alignment, participant recruitment, employer engagement, and measurable workforce outcomes. Attendees will gain tools to replicate the academy within their own institutions, creating accessible entry pathways for individuals transitioning careers and for new entrants into the early childhood field while strengthening local child care systems.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 302C **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Five Instructional Moves You Can Use Tomorrow to Improve Online Engagement

Room 302C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Eamon McGowan
Assistant Professor, Wake Technical Community College

Haley Boone
Assistant Professor, ESOL, Wake Technical Community College

Participants will experience five high-impact instructional moves that improve equitable engagement, persistence, and course completion in synchronous online classes and trainings. Designed for adult learners, this interactive workshop models strategies that clarify participation, reduce cognitive overload, and keep instruction practical and relevant. Participants will learn how to structure short, focused lessons; design accountable group work; and use workplace-aligned activities that reinforce learning. Attendees will leave with adaptable tools and ready-to-use examples they can implement immediately to boost retention, strengthen learning outcomes, and support learner success.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 4 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

From Game Plan to Growth: Lessons Learned Building an Instructional Coaching-Centered Professional Learning Ecosystem

Table 4 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Jimmy Smith
Senior Director, Teaching and Learning, Wake Technical Community College

Tonya Greene
Wake Technical Community College

Improvement in teaching is most powerful when it is both human-centered and evidence-informed. In this session, we share an instructional coaching model that intentionally balances relational trust with structured cycles of data reflection, strategy practice, and feedback. We will share faculty reflections and examples of coaching techniques that increase instructional clarity, deepen student engagement, and build faculty confidence. We will describe how we are thoughtfully experimenting with AI as a coaching tool to support reflection, feedback, and instructional growth. Attendees will practice coaching prompts aligned to common teaching challenges and leave with a toolkit of conversation stems and implementation supports.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 7 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Implementing a Tiered AI Policy at a Community College

Table 7 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Joe Pollard
Stanly Community College

John Bowman
Program Head, University Transfer; English Department Head, Stanly Community College

Sue Drake, Ed.D.
Program Head: K-12 Education, Stanly Community College

Stanly Community College has created an institution-wide, three-tiered policy for AI usage in classes. Loosely described, these tiers are: zero AI usage, assignment-specific usage, and open AI usage. Our presentation will describe the three tiers, demonstrate the implementation of materials into those tiers, show course-specific assignments that illustrate each of the three tiers, and then offer advice on how to replicate this framework at other institutions. Participants should expect to learn more about the successes and struggles associated with each tier and how SCC has supported faculty members at each of those levels.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 203 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Leveraging NSF Funding to Support Student Success and Institutional Capacity

Room 203 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Andrew McMahan
Central Carolina Community College

Jackie Swanik
Wake Technical Community College

Nakisha Floyd
Department Chair / Professor, Nash Community College

Ryan Bradshaw
Johnston Community College

The National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program supports the preparation of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive the nation's economy. For community colleges, ATE funding provides a powerful mechanism to strengthen academic programs, deepen industry partnerships, and build long-term institutional capacity. This session features a panel of North Carolina Community College faculty currently leading ATE-funded projects who will share practical insights on project development, partnership building, and how your college could benefit from pursuing ATE support.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 1 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

More than a Pantry: Connecting Students to Campus and Wraparound Support Through Food Security Programs

Table 1 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Darsell Hadley
Alamance Community College

Elizabeth Brehler
Alamance Community College

Jenny Brownell
Alamance Community College

Food insecurity is a significant barrier to student success across community colleges. A well-designed campus food security program can serve as both a direct support and a gateway to broader wraparound services that improve engagement, persistence, and retention. This session will share practical strategies for building and sustaining a thriving food security initiative, including securing funding, developing staffing structures, and cultivating internal and community partnerships. Participants will explore how food security programs can intentionally connect students to additional campus resources, creating a coordinated approach that strengthens student well-being and academic success.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 11 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Pathway to Employment

Table 11 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Cristian Wood
Southeastern Community College

Dr. English and Dr. Merritt spoke about the group working on the State Pathway to Employment Alignment Project for Perkins to present at the System Office Conference.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 5 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

SPARKing Student Success: Scalable Academic Support Models That Improve Persistence and Outcomes

Table 5 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Judith Roman
Central Piedmont Community College

Lauren Sollenberger
Program Developer, Central Piedmont Community College

Participants will learn how Central Piedmont's SPARK program supports Perkins CTE Special Populations in high-enrollment gateway courses. Learn how the college provides free, course-aligned support to build foundational skills, confidence, and persistence, including targeted strategies for English Language Learners, adult learners, and other special population students in courses including MED 121, BUS 110, and ACC 120. Attendees will explore implementation approaches, observed impacts, and strategies for adapting similar models at their institutions. Through discussion and peer sharing, participants will leave with actionable ideas to strengthen academic support, improve student outcomes, and foster inclusive, student-centered learning environments.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 205 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Strengthening Instruction and Outcomes Through IET Programs

Room 205 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Rebecca Loli
North Carolina Community College System Office

Stephanie Reeder
Director of College and Career Readiness, Randolph Community College

This session showcases Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs as a strategy for strengthening adult student success outcomes. Featuring models from Randolph and Pitt Community Colleges, the presenters will demonstrate how IETs blend adult education with workforce preparation and training to help students incorporate their new skills and accelerate progress. Attendees will hear practical examples of programs that have grown and adapted over time, and leave with practical tools and strategies to design or improve IET programs that strengthen instruction, support learner engagement, and increase persistence, credential attainment, and career outcomes.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 305A **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Using AI to Support Accessible Learning

Room 305A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Cheryl Ann Coyle
Senior Campus Librarian, Levine, Central Piedmont Community College

Elena Lenis Zuluaga
Central Piedmont Community College

Discover practical, hands-on strategies for integrating AI tools to enhance accessibility, teaching, learning, and student support across North Carolina Community Colleges. In this session, you will explore how AI can improve course accessibility, personalize learning, and strengthen in-class student supports. Participants will engage with CoPilot to design accessible materials, generate learning resources, and support student needs. Leave with ready-to-use techniques that empower faculty, staff, and administrators to create more accessible and engaging learning environments.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Table 3 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

Bridging the Digital Divide: Training Digital Navigators in North Carolina

Table 3 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Anna Barrett
Coastal Carolina

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

Rita Rogers
Surry Community College

Discover how updated VLC courses — Digital Navigator Essentials and its Spanish counterpart, Componentes Esenciales de un Navegador Digital — are equipping NC digital navigators to support learners at entry points to education and training. This session highlights course strategies for assessing client needs, connecting individuals to devices and affordable internet, and building foundational digital skills that support early success and persistence. The course provides strategies to help digital navigators with problem-solving, communication, and resource navigation. Session participants will learn how digital navigators can access the training they need to expand access to technology and opportunity in their communities.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Room 402 **03:45 PM - 04:45 PM**

From Day 1, Begin with a Click and Launch a Career

Room 402 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Alexander Block
Pitt Community College

Jason Brannan
Nash Community College

Jason Roth
Principal Education Manager, Autodesk

Todd Roth
North Carolina Community College System Office

Participants will learn how the Computer-Integrated Machining programs at Craven and Nash Community Colleges implemented a “Next-Gen Software on Day 1” approach that connects design, simulation, and manufacturing from the start of instruction. This session demonstrates how early integration of industry-standard tools strengthens student confidence, builds transferable technical skills, and aligns coursework with employer expectations. Attendees will gain adaptable strategies that can extend beyond machining into engineering, architecture, construction, and other manufacturing programs. The presentation will share implementation insights, cross-disciplinary applications, and scalable practices that center students in high-demand, future-ready career pathways.

Wednesday, Oct 14: Exhibit Hall **04:45 PM - 05:00 PM**

Break

Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, Oct 14: Grand Ballroom **05:00 PM - 06:00 PM**

General Session I

Grand Ballroom

National Anthem — Performed by students Color GuardWelcome — N4CSGA President Stephanie PanoWelcome — Chairman, State Board of Community Colleges, Tom LooneyWelcome — NC Community College System Interim President Dr. Monty SullivanFeaturing — President, Postsecondary Education, Strada Education Foundation, Dr. Ruth Watkins

Wednesday, Oct 14: Exhibit Hall **06:00 PM - 07:30 PM**

Culinary Reception

Exhibit Hall

Culinary ReceptionExhibit Hall EntertainmentPoster Session

Thursday, Oct 15: Exhibit Hall **07:00 AM - 08:30 AM**

Early Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **07:00 AM - 08:00 AM**

NC Association of CC Administrators

Room 402 Association/Special Meeting

None

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **07:00 AM - 08:00 AM**

NCSDAA

Room 303 Association/Special Meeting

None

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301B **08:00 AM - 09:30 AM**

From Ambition to Opportunity: Leading NC's Economic Mobility Engine

Room 301B Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... Concurrent Session

Anthony Clarke
President, Guilford Technical Community College

Terri Lee
Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategy, Johnston Community College

Vern Lindquist
President, Johnston Community College

Community college is where ambition meets opportunity - and for hundreds of thousands of students across North Carolina, it is the most powerful engine of social and economic mobility available. Join two college presidents as they speak about what it means to lead institutions that carry that promise, and what they actually did to deliver — increasing access, aligning pathways to credentials of value, graduating more students into careers with family-sustaining wages — and building the data infrastructure to act before it is too late. Participants will leave equipped with practical strategies and ideas to replicate at their institutions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302A **08:00 AM - 09:30 AM**

Scaling Active Learning: Transforming Student Success through the ACCTION Project

Room 302A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Carrie Lineberry
Randolph Community College

In this interactive session, participants explore the NSF-funded ACCTION project's Precalculus Algebra OER and expansive active learning models. While rooted in math, these strategies apply across multiple departments to scale innovation. Attendees gain insights into cross-departmental innovation and national partnerships to improve gateway course engagement. Participants learn how research-driven shifts modernize pathways while reducing costs. The project features broad dissemination and the production of a national documentary. Attendees will learn how to request involvement in the Summer 2027 professional development and Fall 2027 OER pilot. This session provides a scalable roadmap for centering student success within foundational mathematics and beyond.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305A **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

"Put Me in COACH": The Importance of Quality Advising for Early Student Success in Trades Programs

Room 305A | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Stanley Skidmore
Diesel Technology Instructor, James Sprunt Community College

Participants will gain practical knowledge for advising students enrolled in skilled trades programs. The session will provide actionable strategies, proven techniques, and real-world insights designed to enhance student success, improve retention, and support program completion. In turn, this will contribute to increased job placement and long-term career success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 5 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Advising Students in Academic Distress

Table 5 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Tammy Leamey
Health Programs Advisor, Alamance Community College

Participants will review the research supporting advising efforts that are proactive, intrusive, and appreciative. We will look at how this type of advising can be carried out while addressing roadblocks that may arise. Participants will have discussions surrounding what is being done currently, what we would like to see done, and possible solutions from best practices and collaboration. With the help of caring, dedicated advisors, students are more likely to finish their degrees, pursue high-demand careers, and feel empowered to continue their education. Academic distress can be refocused as a time of transition, not a lack of ability.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301A **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Better Together: How One Division Unites to Support Every Student

Room 301A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Krysten Buchanan
Catawba Valley Community College

Staci Wilson
Catawba Valley Community College

When students need support, no single department can do it all. This session highlights how one community college division built a collaborative model that keeps students engaged and connected. Representatives from College and Career Readiness, the Library, Tutoring Center, Academic College Success, Accommodations, Behavioral Counseling, and the CVCC CAREs program will share how cross-departmental communication and shared purpose translate into real wraparound support for students. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for breaking down silos and building a student-centered support network that strengthens persistence and completion outcomes.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 11 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Bridging the Gap: Creating Meaningful Admitted Student Experiences

Table 11 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Round Table

Doris Munoz
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Elizabeth Hunter
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Taylor Vann
Fayetteville Technical Community College

This session explores how a thoughtfully planned Admitted Student Day series can help students feel informed, confident, and connected before classes begin. The session will walk through how the event was built, what worked, what was adjusted, and how different campus partners collaborated in creating a welcoming and informative experience. Participants will learn practical ideas to improve communication with admitted students, increase event attendance, and help them feel confident about their next steps. Attendees will leave with adaptable strategies to strengthen recruitment efforts and support a smoother transition from application to enrollment.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 304 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

CAFE Coffee: Brewing Success One Cup at a Time

Room 304 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Megan Norwood
Coordinator, Adult Basic Education, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Shari Brown
Director, Transitional Studies, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

What happens when students with diverse learning needs are given the opportunity to build a real business? This session highlights an innovative Integrated Education and Training (IET) entrepreneurship program designed for ABE students with different abilities. Through the CAFE Coffee initiative, students develop academic skills, workplace readiness, and entrepreneurial thinking while operating a student-led coffee business. This session shares how CCC&TI designed and implemented an IET that integrates literacy, numeracy, digital skills, and employability competencies into hands-on learning. Participants will learn how students engage in financial literacy, customer service, and team collaboration while building confidence and real-world work skills.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 2 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Career and College Promise — Recruting and Advising Homeschool Students

Table 2 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student… | Round Table

Elizabeth Shirley
Pitt Community College

North Carolina's growing homeschool population presents new opportunities for community colleges. This collaborative session explores effective recruitment strategies, transcript evaluation practices, and advising approaches that support homeschool students transitioning into dual enrollment, workforce, and degree programs. Participants will share practical tools to help strengthen outreach and enhance student success outcomes while building stronger partnerships with homeschool families.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306C **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

COACH: Building AI Fluency and Durable Skills Through Faculty Development

Room 306C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Jenifer Marquis
Craven Community College

Kristen Gardner
Craven Community College

Tyler Leaser
Associate Dean of Math, Science, and Social Science, Craven Community College

This session introduces the COACH (Community of AI Champions) faculty development model, an innovative cohort program designed to help faculty build AI fluency and teach their students to use AI ethically while developing durable skills. Presenters will share how strategies such as collaborative learning and peer feedback support faculty as they learn to integrate AI into their courses during COACH meetings. Participants will explore an AI implementation rubric developed at Craven Community College as part of the COACH program to support course redesign, including designing learning materials, aligning outcomes, AI-proofing assessments, and strengthening students' durable skills.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302C **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Collaborations with Local Schools and Community Partners – Invest in the Future of STEM

Room 302C | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student… | Concurrent Session

Dr. Nahel Awadallah
Biology Professor, Nash Community College

Reggie Cobb
Biology Professor / Instructional Designer, Nash Community College

During this session, participants will discover how one community college transformed STEM access across its region through intentional collaboration with local schools and community partners. This session highlights a four-year strategy that expanded STEM career awareness and enrichment through Family STEM Nights, campus field trips, teacher Communities of Practice, summer camps, high school academies, and in-class elementary and middle school engagement. Participants will gain practical, scalable strategies to strengthen partnerships, increase early STEM exposure, and align outreach efforts with institutional pathways and workforce development goals.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306A **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Designing for the Whole Student: Building Holistic Student Supports at Scale

Room 306A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Andrea Crowley
NC Student Success Center

Dr. Felita Carr
Director, Holistic Student Strategies, NC Student Success Center

Participants will learn how a statewide Holistic Student Supports strategy moved from convenings to coordinated, system-level action. Using a Community of Practice and a 2Gen framework, this session highlights how colleges aligned navigation, basic needs, student-parent supports, and data practices to reduce barriers to completion. Participants will gain practical insights into building institutional capacity, engaging colleges in shared design, and translating holistic support commitments into sustainable structures that improve student persistence across a system.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Elevating Teaching Excellence: An Overview and Insights of NCCCS Master Intructor Program

Room 303 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Lane Freeman
State Director of Online Learning, North Carolina Community College System Office

The North Carolina Community College Master Instructor Program (NC3MI) elevates teaching excellence and student success across all 58 community colleges. In this session featuring Dr. Lane Freeman and program alumni, attendees will explore how NC3MI blends research-based instructional strategies with collaborative leadership development. Participants will learn how the program emphasizes high-impact classroom strategies and student agency. Attendees will gain insights into the program's online modules and capstone projects, leaving with actionable steps for nominating innovative faculty for future cohorts to champion effective teaching practices on their campuses.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 8 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Engaging Minds, Building Skills: YA Novels as Tools for Workforce-Ready Instruction in ABE

Table 8 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Susan DeGiralamo
Wake Technical Community College

This session will introduce an innovative instructional approach that helps Adult Basic Education instructors build both academic and workforce-ready skills in English Language Learners (ELLs) and HSE-seeking learners. Participants will learn how young adult novels can anchor lessons that strengthen comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking while reinforcing workplace competencies such as collaboration, decision-making, resilience, and adaptability. The presenter will show how AI streamlines lesson creation and generates culturally relevant activities that increase engagement and persistence. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use strategies and models they can implement immediately to make instruction more motivating and career-connected.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 203 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Fire the Process, Keep the Person: How AI Is Rewiring College Operations

Room 203 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Zac Schnell
Pamlico Community College

Participants will discover how AI is fundamentally changing what it means to be qualified for a job, and what that means for how colleges hire, train, and deploy their people. Through real operational examples and a hands-on workflow mapping activity, attendees will explore how AI agents and systems reduce the knowledge gap between what staff know and what they can accomplish, making teams more versatile and institutions more resilient. Participants leave with a mapped workflow, a practical AI-Readiness framework, and a new way to think about building operations that work smarter with the people they already have.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 6 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

From Writing and Research to Career Readiness: Career-Focused Assignments That Build Transferable Skills

Table 6 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Debbie Audilet
English Faculty, Craven Community College

Students often struggle to see how writing assignments connect to their future careers. Participants will learn how career-focused writing assignments can build transferable research, writing, and self-assessment skills while helping students explore potential career pathways. The session demonstrates assignments in which students research occupations using sources such as the Occupational Outlook Handbook, analyze job outlooks and required skills, and reflect on how their own interests and ablilites align with professional expectations. Participants will also explore how AI tools can assist instructors in generating contextualized prompts and scaffolding career exploration activits. Attendees will leave with adaptable assignments they can immediateley implement.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 9 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Let Them or Lose Them: Empowerment as a Retention Strategy

Table 9 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Elizabeth "Betsy" Long
College of the albemarle

This session examines how empowering students through shared responsibility can enhance retention while supporting faculty well-being. Inspired by Mel Robbins and the popular “Let Them…” approach, instructors are encouraged to allow students to experience natural consequences for their choices. This fosters accountability, reduces the need for constant oversight, and creates a more balanced classroom environment. Participants will explore practical strategies for implementing these methods, helping students take ownership of their learning, build resilience, and thrive academically, all while promoting a healthier, more sustainable experience for instructors in the classroom.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 1 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Leveraging the AAS: Innovative Pathways to Bachelor's Completion and Workforce Success

Table 1 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Emily Heaberlin
Appalachian State University

Erin Lewis
Appalachian State University

Kevin Sutton
NC State University

Lori Eberly
App State

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

How can higher education better serve the transfer student while meeting workforce demands? Participants will explore three distinct bachelor's completion models at App State designed to improve transfer efficiency and workforce alignment. Panelists will demonstrate how these models reduce cost and time to completion, strengthen partnerships with community colleges and employers, and create coordinated pathways for diverse student populations. Specifically we will discuss our AAS-to-BS Health Sciences, multi-disciplinary Professional Studies (BS), and Organizational Leadership and Learning (BS) majors and how we've utilized block credit and experiential learning to meet program requirements.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 12 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Nurturing Minds: Promoting Mental Wellness and Student Success through Innovative Pathways

Table 12 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Qadeerah Rasheed-Brown
Fayetteville Technical Community College

This presentation focuses on helping first-year college students manage stress and take care of their mental health so they can do well in school. Presenters will discuss the challenges students face, share helpful resources, and explore ways teachers and school leaders can create a more supportive environment. Topics include building resilience, peer support, flexible learning, and using technology for wellness. Through discussions, workshops, and real examples, attendees will walk away with simple and practical ideas they can use right away to help their students succeed.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 3 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Professionalism in Practice: How to Incorporate Professional Expectations in the Classroom for Work Readiness in CTE Programs

Table 3 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Gisele Taylor Wells
Department Chair, Forsyth Tech Community College

Karyn Reilly
Associate Professor, Forsyth Tech Community College

Myles Regier
Associate Dean, Engineering & Transportation Technologies, Forsyth Technical Community College

Patrick Helton
Forsyth Tech Community College

This session highlights how faculty in the Transportation, Advanced Manufacturing, and Design Technology programs intentionally embed professional and participatory expectations into daily classroom practice to better align with employer and industry standards. Presenters will share how cross-program collaboration and engagement with industry advisors led to the development of clearly defined, program-specific professional behaviors. Attendees will explore implementation tools, including rubrics and support resources, and gain insight into implementation challenges and lessons learned. Participants will leave with adaptable strategies to strengthen work readiness and reinforce professionalism across Career and Technical Education programs.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 10 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Promoting Academic Success in the Classroom

Table 10 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Kevin Lawrence
Durham Technical Community College

Tiffany Robinson
Durham Technical Community College

This presentation will focus on five important aspects of learning for community college students. I will cover learning styles, the science behind high levels of learning, the value of self-assessment, academic best practices in the classroom and types of tests a student encounters. There will also be interactive activities for the audience that will focus on both old school ways students learn and nuanced teaching methods that include the use of AI. These teaching techniques and strategies can relate to any type of student in a community college setting and apply to any curriculum.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 7 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Relationship Rich Education: Building Networks That Propel Student Success

Table 7 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Kamisha Kirby
South Piedmont Community College

Rebecca Berry
South Piedmont Community College

Travis Teague
South Piedmont Community College

This session will explore how the Academic Division of one college is exploring how to best implement relationship-rich principles and how they impact student success and employee satisfaction. Drawing on the research presented in Lambert and Felten's Relationship-Rich Education: How Human Connections Drive Success in College, the session highlights the concept that students thrive when surrounded by a constellation of meaningful connections. This presentation illustrates how high-impact practices (HIPs) and student support programs collectively create the network every student needs. Attendees will gain strategies for designing intentional structures that foster belonging, increase learning, and improve persistence to completion.

Thursday, Oct 15: Grand Ballroom **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Student Success with Ellucian

Grand Ballroom | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jacob Jones
Ellucian

Rebecca Dias
Ellucian

Wilmani Humphries
Ellucian

Join Ellucian for a conversation on how a student-first, AI-native approach can reduce friction for learners while helping institutions operate more seamlessly through connected data, systems, and insights.Grounded in early work with Cohort 0 institutions, this session will explore how Ellucian Student is reimagining the traditional student information system—connecting the student lifecycle through a unified experience built specifically for higher education. See how embedded AI, intelligent automation, and real-time insights can simplify complex processes, support more personalized student experiences, and help institutions move from insight to action faster.Ellucian is also excited to provide a demonstration of the transformed Combined Course …

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 4 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Sustainable Nursing Labs: Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity Through Strategic Supply Recycling

Table 4 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Joyce Spinicchia
Coordinator of Nursing Simulation, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Kristen Kaiafas
ADN Program Coordinator, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Join Fayetteville Technical Community College to explore sustainable strategies for managing nursing laboratory supplies while maintaining high-quality learning experiences. This session highlights leadership approaches for recycling and reutilizing appropriate lab materials to reduce program expenses and student costs. The presentation also explores how strategic resource management can streamline purchasing, strengthen institutional efficiency, and support sustainable nursing education. Participants will: - Identify strategies for safely recycling and repurposing nursing lab supplies. - Explore leadership practices that support sustainable resource management. - Use simple tracking systems to improve inventory oversight. - Consider policy approaches that reduce costs while maintaining quality learning experiences.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302B **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

The Tool Is Smart. The Student Is Smarter: Strengthening Student Voice in the Age of AI

Room 302B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Cannie Hunter
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Participants will learn how to strengthen student voice while integrating AI as a supportive tool in teaching and learning. This session will share practical classroom strategies that guide students in using AI to enhance, not replace, their original thinking and communication. Participants will explore institution-wide practices, including clear policy language, faculty alignment, and student-centered guidelines that promote ethical and consistent AI use. Attendees will leave with adaptable tools and actionable strategies to support student success, uphold academic integrity, and build a culture where innovation amplifies authentic student expression.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 204 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Transfer by Design, Not by Chance: New Tools for Advisors

Room 204 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Seth Kamen
North Carolina Community College System

Navigating transfer can be one of the most complex parts of academic advising, both for students and advisors. A systemwide workgroup recently developed new transfer resources designed to simplify planning, clarify pathways, and support consistent advising across institutions. This session will introduce the new tools, demonstrate how advisors can use them in transfer conversations, and share strategies for helping students plan early and transfer with confidence. Participants will leave with practical resources and ideas they can immediately implement in their advising practice.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305B **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Unlocking Early College Credit in CTE: Results and Early Best Practices from a 9th-10th Grade Dual Enrollment Pilot Using High School CTE Faculty

Room 305B | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Brandon Hensley
McDowell Technical Community College

Valerie Dobson
McDowell Technical Community College

This session examines North Carolina's 9th- and 10th-grade CTE dual enrollment pilot as an emerging model for expanding earlier access to college-level coursework. Drawing on McDowell Technical Community College's partnership with McDowell High School, the presentation shares early outcomes and implementation lessons from using credentialed high school CTE faculty as adjunct instructors. Emphasis is placed on compliance, scalability, instructional quality, and student support. Attendees will gain practical guidance on staffing, credentialing, curriculum alignment, partnership coordination, and operational practices that may inform both local replication and future statewide policy expansion.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 13 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Using Standardized Admissions Assessment Data (TEAS/HESI) to Strengthen Student Success

Table 13 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

Participants will engage in a facilitated roundtable examining how standardized admissions assessment data (TEAS/HESI, etc) can be used to strengthen student success in selective admission health science (HS) programs. Colleges are encouraged to bring program-level data related to health science admission scores, benchmarks, progression, and completion outcomes. Facilitators will guide a collaborative review of how assessment scores relate to student readiness, course performance, and program completion, exploring with participants how admission data can inform advising, preparatory supports, and admission policies. Participants will leave with ideas for using assessment data intentionally to improve HS student program readiness, persistence, and success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 202 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Walking With Purpose: Supporting Adult Learners Every STEP of the Way

Room 202 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Crystal Bradshaw
Blue Ridge Community College

Laura Simmons
Blue Ridge Community College

Adult learners bring valuable life experience, motivation, and resilience to the classroom, but many are balancing college with work, parenting, and other responsibilities. This session highlights Blue Ridge Community College's STEP (Supporting Transitions, Education & Persistence) program, a family-centered summer bridge model designed to help adult learners with children successfully navigate the transition to college. Participants will explore how STEP combines academic preparation, success coaching, campus resource connections, family engagement, and practical support to create a more supportive college experience for adult learners. The session will share lessons learned from the summer pilot, including strategies for building trust, reducing barriers, ...

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 307 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Whole Wellness and Neurodiversity: A Community College Model for Student Success

Room 307 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Ernest Lawson
Director of Counseling and Disability Access Services, Guilford Technical Community College - GTCC

Community college students often balance academics with work, family responsibilities, financial concerns, transportation, mental health needs, and disabilities. Neurodivergent students, including students with ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, and executive functioning challenges, may face additional barriers in the college environment. This interactive session looks at student success through a Whole Wellness approach, including academic, emotional, physical, social, financial, environmental, career, and self-advocacy needs. Using systems theory, participants will look at how family, work, college services, policies, technology, and community resources can affect a student's college experience. Through the case of "Jordan," participants will look at student strengths, barriers, accessibility, accommodations, student …

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 206 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Workforce-Ready ESOL: Embedding Job Skills into Any Lesson

Room 206 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Haley Boone
Assistant Professor, ESOL, Wake Technical Community College

This session demonstrates how instructors can align any ESOL lesson with workforce readiness goals without creating new materials from scratch. Participants will learn practical strategies for embedding transferable job skills, digital literacy, and workplace communication into familiar topics such as feelings, shopping, or housing. Through a hands-on adaptation activity and a classroom case study, attendees will practice revising existing lessons to reflect WIOA priorities while preserving language development goals. The session also introduces AI as a responsible brainstorming partner. Participants will leave with workplace adaptation checklists and practical tools to prepare students for the workforce while learning English.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 205 **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Global Partnerships, Local Economic Impact: The Okuma Machine Tool Academy at Rowan-Cabarrus

Room 205 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Carol Spalding
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Zackary Hubbard
Rowan Cabarrus Community College

When Okuma America Corporation, a global leader in CNC machine tools and automation, released an RFP seeking a premier site for its Machine Tool Academy, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College rose to the challenge. Okuma selected the college to be its exclusive training partner for not just North America, but for the entire hemisphere. Leveraging its new state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Center, the college demonstrated capacity, experience, and vision to develop a comprehensive training program in electrical and mechanical maintenance, and CNC programming and operations. Housing flagship Okuma equipment, the academy delivers hands-on instruction for Okuma employees, distributors, and customers.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306B **08:30 AM - 09:30 AM**

Multiplying Potential: Investing in Developmental Math Success with MAT 025 and 035

Room 306B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

Rita Rogers
Surry Community College

Session participants will preview two new developmental math courses from the VLC: MAT 025 Concepts of Essential Math/Statistics and MAT 035 Concepts of Algebra. Developed by community college instructors and designed to center student learning, the courses feature instructor-created video lessons, guided problem solving, practice with step-by-step solutions demonstrated on screen, and growth mindset activities. Students complete homework and assessments through the free platform MyOpenMath, providing immediate feedback and reducing costs. Participants will explore how developmental math design that combines instructor-guided instruction, worked examples, and open digital tools can create stronger on-ramps to college success and workforce preparation.

Thursday, Oct 15: Exhibit Hall **09:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

Beverage Break in Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

The Beautiful Thing About Community College: Adult Students in a Changing Classroom

Room 402 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Chuck Bowling
Dean of Arts & Sciences, McDowell Technical Community College

Dual-enrolled students now dominate many classes in community colleges across NC, as the CCP program and Cooperative Innovative High Schools have come of age. What does this change mean for the adult students who were once the bread-and-butter of our programs? This session presents results of a case study asking this question of adult transfer and CTE students and their transfer-course instructors. Attendees will learn from these adult students' experiences, engage in rich discussion about the risks to belonging adult students face, and leave armed with practical solutions to ensure all students feel they belong in today's multi-generational community college.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302A **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Access for All: Lenoir Community College & Dual Enrollment

Room 302A | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

April Best
Information Technology Program Chair/Instructor, Lenoir Community College

Athena Wilson
Lenoir Community College

Breonna Baker
CCP Advisor, Lenoir Community College

Margo Phillips
Lenoir Community College

Tad Parson
Lenoir Community College

Lancer Academy is a project we shared in year one of inception in October 2021. We would like to come back and discuss how things are going in year five, share how we are expanding opportunities for students through workforce development and CTE, as well as share successes and challenges through faculty experiences. We would like to share real action steps that can help others provide similar opportunities in their service area. Our faculty voice is important to our work, and we wanted to highlight that in addition to our data points and success stories.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

An Ecosystem of Success: Improving Nursing Student Persistence Through Faculty-Led Academic Coaching & Employer Partnerships

Room 303 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Anna Ledford
Cleveland Community College

Christina Hill
Cleveland Community College

Participants will learn how Cleveland Community College implemented a coordinated coaching ecosystem to strengthen persistence to increase student completion in its nursing program. The session highlights how structured faculty coaching supports early intervention, improves milestone attainment, and increases student engagement in rigorous health science programs. Presenters will also demonstrate how partnerships enhance clinical readiness and align program outcomes with workforce needs. Participants will gain practical strategies for implementing faculty coaching structures, strengthening healthcare partnerships, and supporting program capacity in high-demand programs. Attendees will leave with replicable approaches that improve student persistence, completion, and employment outcomes in nursing and other healthcare ...

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 12 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Building Engagement in STEM — Creating a Departmental Culture to Support Students

Table 12 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Marissa Cominotti
South Piedmont Community College

Rather than researching and publishing, community college STEM faculty are focused on teaching and providing experiences for students to explore and develop interest in STEM. Participants in this session will get ideas from SPCC faculty about how to create a variety of opportunities for students. Topics include: enrichment and hands-on lab work (honors projects, undergraduate research, CCure, high altitude weather balloon project), events (NC Scifest, clubs), collaborations with local schools, grant funding (SPARC grant from NSF) and more. SPCC instructors will share successes and challenges of creating a culture of STEM interest and learning at the community college level.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306C **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Built, Launched, Learned: A Year Inside the Virtual Learning Community (VLC)

Room 306C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

What happens when innovation, collaboration, and strategy come together across the NCCCS system? Join the Virtual Learning Community (VLC) for a dynamic overview of the projects completed over the past year—highlighting impact, lessons learned, and systemwide momentum. This fast-paced session will showcase how VLC initiatives moved from idea to implementation, supported colleges, and strengthened teaching and learning across North Carolina. Attendees will gain insight into what the VLC has delivered, why it matters, and how colleges can engage with current and future work. Expect practical takeaways, real examples, and a fresh look at system-level innovation in action.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 204 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Closing the Gap: Using an ACA Course to Strengthen First-Generation Student Success

Room 204 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Shanita Wooten
Forsyth Technical Community College

Shareka R. Brown
Associate Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Forsyth Technical Community College

First-generation college students often enter higher education with the potential to succeed, but without the structured knowledge and support systems needed to persist. This session highlights how an ACA (College Success) course, intentionally designed and implemented through TRIO Student Support Services, can serve as a high-impact strategy to close equity gaps. Participants will be able to: - Identify key barriers impacting first-generation college student success - Understand how an ACA course can serve as a structured intervention for First-Gen participants - Explore curriculum components that promote academic, personal, and career readiness - Develop strategies to implement or strengthen a First-Gen-supported …

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 9 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Coaching for Student Advancement: A Hands-On Roundtable on the GROW Model

Table 9 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Carrie Lockhert
InsideTrack

Kris Burris
Vice President, Student Success and Enrollment Management, College of The Albemarle

Led by Kris Burris (College of The Albemarle) and Carrie Lockhert (InsideTrack), this interactive roundtable explores how John Whitmore's GROW model transitions student support from instructional to developmental. Participants will learn to apply evidence-based strategies—balancing direct advice with targeted questioning—to help learners overcome barriers, build self-efficacy, and create actionable plans for educational and career completion. Key Learning Outcomes Apply the GROW Framework: Structure coaching conversations around Goal, Reality, Options, and Will to turn student objectives into actionable steps. Balance Support Strategies: Determine when to provide direct recommendations versus asking targeted questions that foster student agency and problem-solving. Bridge Obstacles: Help …

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 307 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Combating Unethical AI Use in Writing: Curating Student Confidence with Cadmus

Room 307 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Kelli Jacobs
James Sprunt Community College

Mary Ann Simmons
James Sprunt Community College

Participants will engage in a hands-on exploration of scaffolded writing assessment design to build transferable skills such as critical thinking, adaptability, and professional communication. Using Cadmus, a holistic assessment-for-learning platform, participants will design a typical assignment into a structured, process-focused task. The workship demonstrates how embedding prompts, resources, and staged development supports student confidence, independence, and authentic engagement with the writing process. Participants will explore how Cadmus offers insights into a student's writing process through timeline data and comprehensive student engagement logs. Cadmus enables targeted feedback from instructors. Attendees will leave with a practical framework, preparing students for their future.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 10 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Community College Legislative Assembly

Table 10 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Erica Gallion
North Carolina General Assembly

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY Established in 2022, the Community College Legislative Assembly (CCLA) provides community college students and dually enrolled high school students with an authentic, hands-on experience modeled after the legislative process of the North Carolina General Assembly. The program is designed to strengthen civic understanding, leadership, communication skills, and confidence while providing students with a greater understanding of state government and public service. Throughout the program, students step beyond the traditional classroom and assume the roles of legislators. They participate in the legislative process by developing and presenting bills, engaging in debate, considering amendments, and voting on legislation. …

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 203 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Creating a Culture of Care: Improving Student Success Metrics through Care Teams

Room 203 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Davis Smith
Dean of Academic Advising, Wake Technical Community College

Since 2020, Wake Tech has embarked on developing a cultural and structural blueprint for improving student success through our Care Team Model. In a 5-year timespan, we have achieved outcomes that include: 90% of our students report a sense of advocacy, 24.34% increase in retention rates, 75.9% persistence from semester 1 to 2, 23% decrease in academic concern (and increased recovery from academic concern), and 4% increased completion rates. This session will demonstrate scalable practices for creating a collaborative culture among campus staff and faculty to promote real student success outcomes on campus.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 206 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Five Years Later: North Carolina's First Second-Chance Pell Prison Education Program

Room 206 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jay Lively
Asheville Buncombe Communinity Technical College

Five years after its launch, participants will learn about North Carolina’s first Second Chance Pell Prison Education Program (PEP) and its impact on student success and reentry pathways for justice-impacted individuals. Presenters include 2023 graduate Taylor Cayton, now a reentry specialist for the same correctional facility where she earned her Associate in Applied Science in Human Services Technology from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, alongside PEP faculty member Porscha Orndorf and program coordinator Jay Lively. Together, they will discuss successes, challenges, and the future of prison education.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 11 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

From Access to Achievement: Launching and Sustaining HSE en Español Program

Table 11 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Round Table

Anita Green
Central Carolina Community College

Nutan Varma
Central Carolina CC

This session presents a practical framework for implementing an HSE en Español program designed to meet the needs of CCR adult ESL students who prefer Spanish-language instruction. Participants will learn strategies to increase enrollment, improve retention and graduation rates, and strengthen student outcomes. An implementation model for HSE en Español that addresses recruitment, enrollment procedures, strategic scheduling, and targeted instructional priorities focused on instructional design. Presenters will highlight effective instructional materials, class structures, and planning tools that promote persistence and exam readiness. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to design or strengthen an HSE en Español class.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 201 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

From Classroom to Career: Scaling Teaching Excellence to Drive Student Success and Workforce Readiness

Room 201 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Amanda Melniczek, Ed.D.
QEP Faculty Development Program Manager, Guilford Technical Community College

Carmen Nunalee, Ed.D., J.D.
Executive Vice President / Vice President of Student Success, Stanly Community College

Jeremiah E. Shipp, Ed.D.
Academic Director, Association of College and University Educators

Steve Turner Ed.D.
Guilford Technical Community College

Community colleges are making strategic investments in capacity building to strengthen student success, AI literacy, and workforce readiness. Leaders from the North Carolina Student Success Center, Davidson-Davie Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, and Stanly Community College will share how flexible, stackable faculty learning experiences are scaling pedagogical innovation across colleges. Panelists will elevate the student voice, highlighting how learners recognize and respond to effective teaching and how these practices strengthen critical thinking, communication, and collaboration — skills today's employers demand. Institutional leaders will also share how this work drives persistence, completion, and employment outcomes.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301A **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

From Fear to Framework: Helping Faculty Navigate AI in the Community College Classroom

Room 301A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Michelle Ford
College of the albemarle

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how students write, research, and learn, leaving many faculty unsure how to respond. This session explores how community colleges can move from fear and uncertainty about AI to practical frameworks that support both faculty and students. Participants will learn strategies for starting productive faculty conversations about AI, developing shared language around responsible use, and creating classroom approaches that maintain academic integrity while preparing students for modern workplaces. Examples from faculty workshops and departmental discussions will be shared. Participants will leave with a clear framework for guiding AI conversations and developing policy.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 202 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

From Interest to Enrollment: Building Healthcare Talent Pipelines Through Early Exposure

Room 202 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student… | Concurrent Session

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

Participants will learn strategies for strengthening the healthcare talent pipeline by connecting K-12, community colleges, and employers through intentional early career exposure initiatives. This session highlights statewide approaches that introduce students to health careers through structured pathways, dual enrollment, and career exploration experiences. Presenters will share examples of partnerships that help students move from interest to enrollment in high-demand programs. Participants will gain practical ideas for building sustainable recruitment pipelines that increase program awareness, expand access to healthcare careers, and support students as they transition from secondary education into community college health science programs.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305A **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

From Service to Systems: Leadership Lessons for Student Success

Room 305A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Gabriel Saldaña
Senior Student Success Navigator, Central Piedmont Community College

Great student success initiatives don't fail because we lack good intentions, they stall when our everyday systems create friction for the students and staff navigating them. But when designed well, systems and frameworks aren't meant to bog people down in bureaucracy. They exist to protect us, creating clarity, reducing staff burnout, and building a safe runway for real human connection to happen. Drawing from a range of front-line leadership across international humanitarian response, PK–12 education, HBCU student success, and community college operations, this session explores how we turn leadership intent into everyday reality. Together, we'll dive into THE CARE MODEL™: …

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 205 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Health Sciences IPE(hIPE) from Silos to Synergy: Developing an Interprofessional Committee and Collaborative Learning Experiences for Health Science Students

Room 205 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Tammy Beck
Wilkes Community College

Valerie Bailey
Wilkes Community College

Participants will learn how Wilkes Community College developed a sustainable Interprofessional Education (IPE) model to break down instructional silos and strengthen collaborative learning in Health Sciences programs. This session shares a practical framework for establishing an IPE committee, engaging faculty champions, and designing scalable interprofessional learning events aligned with IPEC Core Competencies. Participants will gain strategies for building institutional support, fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, and enhancing student communication, teamwork, and role clarity to better prepare graduates for team-based healthcare environments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302C **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

HRD Best Practices and Ninja Techniques for Use Across Instructional Areas and Career Services

Room 302C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Anne Bacon
NCCCSO

HRD (Human Resource Development) has been described by leaders in the field as a “shape-shifter,” the “swiss-army knife” of community colleges, or simply “magic.” Come to this session to learn more about HRD and how to use it in conjunction with CE, CU, CCR, career services, and more. With cameos by HRD Advisory Board members and discussion involving the audience, this session will share examples of how different community colleges use HRD to help students assess their needs and career interests, gain durable skills, build digital and financial literacy, prepare for careers, and find employment.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 2 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Inside Track for All: Building a Coaching Culture to Strengthen Student and Employee Success

Table 2 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Kaleigh Gibson
Central Carolina Community College

Samantha Zamudio
Education Navigator, Central Carolina Community College

Participants will learn how to apply Inside Track coaching strategies across student-facing and supervisory roles to strengthen engagement, performance, and persistence. This session highlights practical tools such as active listening, powerful questioning, and goal-setting that support student success while also enhancing leadership effectiveness and staff development. Attendees will gain actionable strategies to use coaching practices in advising, instruction, student services, and employee supervision to build trust, accountability, and resilience. By adopting a shared coaching mindset, colleges can foster stronger communication, reduce barriers, support professional growth, and create a unified, student-centered culture that advances institutional capacity and workforce readiness.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306A **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Meeting Them Where They Are: Strategies for Adult Student Retention

Room 306A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jason Snelling
Vance-Granville Community College

Adult learners bring incredible resilience, determination, and real-world experience to the community college, and they deserve institutions that rise to meet them. This presentation explores powerful, practical strategies designed to break down the barriers non-traditional students face and unlock their full potential. Discover how institutional flexibility, targeted support services, and inclusive teaching practices can make a life-changing difference in adult student success. Attendees will leave inspired and equipped with actionable frameworks to champion a responsive, proactive mindset, shifting from expecting students to be "college-ready" to proudly becoming "student-ready," and building a learning environment where every adult learner can truly thrive.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302B **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Opening Pathways, Expanding Opportunities

Room 302B | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Lindsay Tipton
Associate Director of Pathways and Partnerships for Access to Achievement, North Carolina Community College System Office
The Pathways Entry Project, a collaboration between state-level subject matter experts and Access to Achievement, is a curriculum development initiative creating entry-level, skill-focused, course sequences in construction, health sciences, graphic arts, animal care, and horticulture. These courses will provide hands-on first steps in either Workforce Continuing Education or Curriculum for students who may benefit from a new way to begin training for a particular career. Session participants will be introduced to these new courses, learning how to use them to create additional opportunities for students' credential attainment.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 3 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Recruiting 101: Identifying Sources and Strategies to Increase Curriculum Enrollment

Table 3 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Round Table

Ellie Koltonuk
Associate Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment, Central Carolina Community College

Kelvin Hunt
Executive Director, Athletics and Student Outreach & Recruitment, Central Carolina Community College

The participants will learn about different populations to target for recruitment and outreach, as well as strategies to transition those populations from prospective students to applicants to enrollees. Participants will gain an understanding of the recruitment cycle and how to structure CRM campaigns to maximize conversion and yield rates. Participants will also learn why it's important to be process-oriented in a results-based industry.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 7 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Removing Barriers to Completion: Building Wraparound Support Systems for Student Success

Table 7 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Samantha Oxendine
Dean, Counseling, Careers, & Behavioral Services, Robeson Community College

Participants will learn how coordinated wraparound support services can remove barriers and improve student success outcomes in community colleges. The session will highlight strategies that integrate advising, counseling, tutoring, accessibility services, and basic needs support to better serve students. Participants will explore ways to strengthen collaboration, improve referral processes, and ensure timely support. Practical examples will demonstrate how integrated services contribute to student engagement, retention, and completion, and participants will leave with ideas to strengthen support systems at their own institutions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 5 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Rethinking Student Support Delivery

Table 5 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Michael Coleman
Wake Technical Community College

This session highlights Wake Tech's Care Center initiative to close basic-needs gaps by transforming a locker-rental system into a private, on-demand pickup option for food, hygiene items, and school supplies. In partnership with RecRe, the project adapts locker technology to align with students' schedules and improve staff efficiency. The presentation outlines the rationale for the change, technology adaptation steps, and integration into Wake Tech's broader support strategy. Attendees will explore practical lessons on stocking, privacy, and scaling within existing resources, gaining insight into what worked, what was refined, and how to replicate the model on their campuses.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 8 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Rooted in Community: Scaling Agricultural Programs Through Engagement and Work-Based Learning

Table 8 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student… | Round Table

Chris Stroud
Sampson Community College

Participants will explore a community-centered model for expanding agricultural education through strategic outreach, experiential learning, and workforce alignment. This session demonstrates how work-based learning partnerships and large-scale community events create a pipeline from recruitment to career placement. Attendees will learn to embed community engagement into program design through partnerships with industry, K–12 schools, and extension networks. Emphasis is placed on paid internships, cohort-based programming, and hands-on industry exposure to improve retention and workforce readiness. Participants will leave with replicable strategies for building pipelines, scaling programs, and aligning outreach with enrollment growth and regional workforce needs.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305B **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Streamlining Syllabi: Increasing Efficiency and Consistency at Piedmont Community College

Room 305B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Brian Hicks
Piedmont Community College

After years of using a Word document template to create syllabi, Piedmont Community College needed to further standardize syllabus management. The goal was to streamline the syllabus creation process while also providing a positive, sustained impact on overall syllabus health. This session will discuss how PCC reviewed its current system, implemented a new strategy through a partnership, and found success in accomplishing both goals. Participants will discover how the new process has reduced faculty and administration time commitments and improved organization strategies, as well as how it is enhancing the student experience.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 1 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Strengthening Student Mobility: App State's Organizational Leadership and Learning Bachelor's Degree for Community College Graduates

Table 1 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Kevin Sutton
Associate Professor, Appalachian State University

The Organizational Leadership and Learning (OLL) program at Appalachian State University provides a clear, workforce-aligned pathway for North Carolina community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degree. Designed for working adults, OLL builds on AAS and AA/AS credentials and offers flexible online courses that strengthen leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills needed in high-growth sectors. This session will highlight transfer-friendly curriculum design, emerging articulation opportunities, and strategies for supporting adult learners through seamless onramps. Participants will learn how OLL expands access, accelerates degree completion, and equips learners to advance in North Carolina's evolving workforce.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301B **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Succession Planning for the Curriculum Functional Area

Room 301B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Bryan McCullough
BSA-Student Services, North Carolina Community College System Office

Peyton Bell
Director of Curriculum Management, North Carolina Community College System Office

In this session, participants will learn the components needed for a succession plan for each curriculum functional area at a college, including programs of study, course and section management, admissions, and records/registrar. Emphasis will be placed on the standard of practice, staffing, training opportunities, and support available throughout the NC Community College System. Upon completion, participants will have the knowledge needed to create a succession plan that supports the college's mission and the students served.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 304 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

The New ACA 122

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jenn Gardner Selby
Dean, General Education & Transfer, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

This session will focus on the new ACA 122: Transfer & Career Success course as well as the statewide ACA 122 Content Library. There will be a discussion about future opportunities for ACA 122 collaboration and networking across the state. Attendees will have the chance to meet one another and share best practices pertaining to ACA 122.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 4 **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

The Trouble With Reading

Table 4 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Elizabeth Quirk
Wake Tech

Emily Morris
Associate Professor of English, Wake Technical Community College

All educators have experienced it: students are assigned to read texts for class, but either don't, won't, or, more tragically, can't. With myriad changes to education, students' critical thinking skills and attention spans are deteriorating, leaving them woefully unprepared for the demands of not only the classroom but also the workforce. Data over the past few years reveal a staggering decline in students' reading comprehension, with reading test scores now dropping to their lowest records since 1992. Participants of this session will learn why reading skills have declined and leave with collaborative pedagogical approaches that can help bridge this gap.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306B **10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Data Driven Decisions: Promoting Student Success Through Consistent Analysis of Performance Statistics

Room 306B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Amanda Davis
Forsyth Technical Community College

Data reflecting student success is made available for department chairs following each semester at Forsyth Technical Community College. Participants will learn how the Forsyth Tech mathematics team analyzes the quantitative data provided and combines this information with anecdotal classroom observations to guide decision-making. Having the ability to see what is working well and where improvement is needed allows the dedicated faculty to collaborate and explore new methods for supporting student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Exhibit Hall **11:00 AM - 11:15 AM**

Break

Exhibit Hall

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301A **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

The Ins and Outs of Program Planning: A Real World Example

Room 301A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Tamara Flynn
Pitt Community College

Effective educational program planning, whether formal or informal, demands clear purpose, strategic direction, and thoughtful execution. Faculty, instructional leaders, and administrators must be equipped with the essential components of effective program development, including needs assessment, stakeholder support, administrative coordination, and budgeting. Meticulous development and coordination increase the likelihood of program success. This session will present a real-world example that demonstrates intentional planning. Desinged for educators, instructional leaders, and administrators, the session offers practical and adaptable strategies to suppor the planning and implementation of educational programs. Participants will leave with actionable tools to strengthen their planning process and enhance program outcomes.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 205 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Ability to Benefit — Dual Enrollment for Adults Pursuing a Secondary Diploma

Room 205 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

DeeAnna Parker
Wilkes Community College

Rebecca Loli
North Carolina Community College System Office

Susan Huneycutt
NC Community College System Office

This session explores Ability to Benefit (ATB) as a strategy for strengthening student success outcomes in adult education and workforce pathways. Participants will gain an understanding of ATB career pathway program requirements, student eligibility, and key benefits for learners. The session highlights practices and updates from colleges advancing toward implementation, offering practical insights. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and increased confidence to support ATB adoption, expand access to postsecondary opportunities, and improve persistence, completion, and career advancement outcomes for underserved student populations.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 304 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Benefits and Challenges of Online Learning in NC Community Colleges

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Emily Smail
North Carolina Community College System

Julie Edmunds
Early College Research Center at UNCG

This session examines system-wide trends in course modality participation across North Carolina community colleges. Presenters will share findings on online course engagement by student demographics and program area, including an analysis of associate degree completers who earned their credentials fully online. Next, we will review participation and outcomes for Career and College Promise students, highlighting short- and long-term success indicators. The session will conclude with recommendations for improving engagement and completion in online coursework. Attendees will gain actionable insights to guide instructional design decisions that better support student success in online learning environments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 201 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Beyond the Textbook and Classroom: Using AI ChatBots as Tutors and Virtual Environments to Increase Student Engagement

Room 201 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Reggie Cobb
Biology Professor / Instructional Designer, Nash Community College

Artificial intelligence is transforming biology education through adaptive tutoring, AI chatbots, and immersive virtual environments. In this session, participants will explore practical strategies for integrating AI tools to increase student engagement, personalize learning, and enhance scientific discussion — while saving instructors time and resources. Participants will examine real-world applications, implementation strategies, and important considerations such as accuracy, ethics, and academic integrity. Designed for educators across disciplines, this presentation emphasizes using AI as a powerful enhancement to teaching — not a replacement — equipping attendees with actionable ideas to move beyond the traditional textbook and classroom experience.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305A **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Bridging the Gap — Planning CIHS Students for Success

Room 305A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Brandon Denton
Early College Advisor, Nash Community College

Indya Sweet
School Counselor, Nash County Public Schools

Learn how Early College students are intentionally guided towards success through structured degree pathways in AA, AS, and AE programs. This session explores the role of advising within a CIHS partnership and how strong collaboration between Nash Early College High School and Nash Community College supports student achievement during high school and beyond. Participants will examine our advising and planning process, including use of a Five Year Plan model and transfer guides that align coursework with future university goals. Discover strategies that help bridge institutional gaps and create clear pathways that prepare students for graduation, transfer, and long-term success!

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 4 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Building Student Success through SkillsUSA

Table 4 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Gina Beaudry
Wake Technical Community College

Participants will learn how Vernon Malone College and Career Academy leverages SkillsUSA to strengthen students' resumes and build confidence through authentic competition. Participants will gain practical ideas for integrating SkillsUSA projects into coursework, coaching students for employability, and translating competition experiences into measurable resume bullets. Participants will leave with adaptable strategies to increase student engagement, reinforce technical and professional skills, and showcase student achievement to employers and community partners.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Building the North Carolina Global Workforce

Room 402 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Allyson Daly
Wayne Community College

Hazael Andrew
UNC Chapel Hill

Sarah Wright
Director, International Education, Davidson-Davie Community College

Teresa Hall
Director, Center for Global Engagement, Central Piedmont Community College

This session explores how North Carolina community colleges can intentionally build a globally competent workforce by equipping faculty, staff, and librarians to integrate global perspectives into teaching and learning. In partnership with UNC World View, participating institutions implement educator-centered professional development and curriculum design strategies that connect global learning to workforce readiness. Attendees will examine scalable models that align classroom practices with employer-valued skills such as cultural competence, global awareness, and adaptability. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen global learning initiatives and better prepare students to succeed in the global workforce.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 307 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Circle of Care

Room 307 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Amanda Allen
Director, Student Success, Wake Technical Community College

Chrissty Berry
Student Support Specialist/Wellness Intern, Wake Technical Community College

Melody Wiggins
Wake Technical Community College

Participants will learn how Wake Tech's Care Center was created and how it has evolved to support student success through a coordinated, wraparound model of care. This interactive session will engage participants through guided discussion and reflection on strategies for integrating academic and non-academic support services to remove barriers and keep students on track toward their educational and personal goals. Participants will gain practical insights into building a "circle of care" that strengthens student engagement, persistence, and success across the institution.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 204 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Designing the Adult Learner Front Door: CCR Success as a Gateway to Retention and Pathways

Room 204 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Shannon Stanley
Forsyth Technical Community College

Susan Emery
Forsyth Technical Community College

Learners will explore how Forsyth Technical Community College aligned College and Career Readiness (CCR) and Human Resource Development (HRD) to create an on-ramp model that improves persistence, increases FTE, and expands early student engagement as a strategy for sustaining adult learner pathways in an evolving funding landscape.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302A **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Eight Weeks, Infinite Possibilities: Using AI to Supercharge Student Engagement

Room 302A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Jennifer Jones
Distance Learning Director, Alamance Community College

Teaching an online 8-week course can feel like a sprint — for instructors and students. This session highlights practical, low-stress ways community college faculty can use AI to boost engagement and check for understanding without adding extra work. Presenters share real examples: AI-generated discussion starters, guided reflections, student critiques of AI-created summaries, and creative assignments that promote original thinking. We'll also discuss clear expectations for AI use and academic integrity. Attendees leave with ready-to-use activities, sample prompts, and simple strategies they can plug directly into their online courses.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 8 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Enhancing Student Success for TRIO Participants Using Comprehensive, Data-Driven Strategies

Table 8 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Patricia Alghali
TRIO Advisor / Wellness Counselor, Alamance Community College

Shawn Guy
Director, TRIO Student Support Services, Alamance Community College

This session provides a comprehensive, theory-based framework for enhancing retention, persistence, and completion among TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) participants at Alamance Community College. Drawing on Schlossberg's Transition Theory (4S Model), Career Development Theory (Holland and Super), and evidence-based prevention strategies, the model combines intrusive advising, early alert systems, culturally responsive programming, and holistic wellness counseling. Participants will explore how coordinated, comprehensive support systems meet the academic, psychosocial, and career development needs of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students. Attendees will leave with practical, scalable strategies to enhance student success outcomes at their own institutions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 11 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

From AAS to BSIT: A Seamless Path to Your Bachelor's Degree at ECU

Table 11 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Amy Frank
Director of Comm College and Military Outreach, East Carolina University

The AAS degree was once considered a terminal degree. However, the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology (BSIT) has changed that narrative. The BSIT is a degree-completion program designed for students who have already earned a qualifying industrial or technical AAS degree. Through this program, students can transfer 75 hours towards that BS degree. We award 38 hours for their technical courses and up to 37 hours for general education courses. The online option is especially beneficial for working professionals, as it allows them to earn a Bachelor of Science degree while continuing their employment and maintaining their income.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 13 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

From AI Ambition to AI Action: Building NC's AI-Ready Community Colleges with NCCCS and Intel

Table 13

Hilmi Lahoud
NCCCS

Hugues Morin
Intel

Every community college leader is being asked the same question: "What's our AI plan?" Students, employers, and policymakers expect colleges to move from AI awareness to AI fluency — quickly. Yet many institutions face common challenges in three key areas: curriculum, infrastructure, and capacity to scale. Join this roundtable discussion on how North Carolina's 58 community colleges can collaboratively address these gaps. We will share how Intel's Digital Readiness Program and AI EmpowerED initiative — a turnkey model featuring ready-to-teach AI curriculum, Lab-in-a-Box infrastructure, and train-the-trainer faculty enablement — can accelerate AI readiness across every NC college.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 6 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

From Forming to Performing: Applying Tuckman's Model to Teaching & Learning Event Management

Table 6 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Amanda Melniczek, Ed.D.
QEP Faculty Development Program Manager, Guilford Technical Community College

Professional development events in Teaching & Learning require more than logistics — they require intentional design, stakeholder alignment, and sustainable follow-through. This session explores the event management side of Teaching & Learning through the lens of Bruce Tuckman's group development model (Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing, and Adjournment). Participants will learn how to apply each stage of Tuckman's model to build a comprehensive event plan that leverages stakeholder support across academic leadership, faculty, instructional designers, and support staff. The session will demonstrate how understanding group dynamics strengthens collaboration, clarifies roles, anticipates resistance, and enhances engagement throughout the planning and implementation process.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301B **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

From Intern to Executive: Leveling Up Workplace Writing in ENG 110

Room 301B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Britt Honeycutt
Sampson Community College

Participants will explore ENG 110 as a gamified workplace writing course contextualized for CTE students and structured around career progression from Intern to Executive. This session demonstrates how interactive H5P modules and level-based assignments increase motivation while scaffolding essential skills such as clarity, tone, audience awareness, and strategic communication. Attendees will examine the course framework, review authentic workplace tasks aligned with technical programs, and gain adaptable strategies for aligning writing instruction with workforce expectations while maintaining academic rigor.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 3 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Health Academy Roundtable

Table 3 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Ashley Long
Gaston College

Dr. Lori Metcalf
Gaston College

Gaston College launched an innovative initiative that enables CCP students to enter the practical nursing program through a dual-enrollment pathway, allowing them to complete high school requirements while simultaneously progressing through the practical nursing curriculum. Building on this success, the Health Academy is expanding to include additional healthcare programs, creating more pathways for student access and advancement. This roundtable will explore the planning and implementation of the initiative, share results to date, and highlight key lessons learned, while also providing ample time for questions and discussion.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305B **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Integrating Stakeholder Input in Strategic Planning

Room 305B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Audrey J. Jaeger
Executive Director, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research

Daniel West
NC State University Belk Center

Jess Edwards
Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research

Tracy Mancini
Carteret Community College

Zach Barricklow
NC Community College System

This panel discussion will explore practical methods community colleges can use to include stakeholder input in strategic planning efforts, with a focus on integrating student and employee viewpoints. Participants will learn about options for data collection, methods of analysis, and examples of specific goals, success measures, and implementation strategies that colleges have included in their strategic plans in response to stakeholder input. Additionally, participants will be directed to North Carolina-based and national research and resources for strategic planning. The panel will include Dr. Zach Barricklow, President Tracy Mancini, Dr. Jess Edwards, Dr. Daniel West, and moderator Dr. Audrey Jaeger.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 203 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Leading with Trust Through Transformation: Building Culture, Stability, and Momentum Across Community Colleges

Room 203 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Gabby McCutchen
Provost, Arts & Sciences and Scott Northern Wake Campus, Wake Technical Community College

Jackie Swanik
Wake Technical Community College

Lisa Carlson
Vice President of Student Success, Randolph Community College

Lisa Johnson
Vice President Learning and Workforce Development/CAO, Randolph Community College

Michelle Jackson
Dean, Liberal Arts, Wake Tech

Community colleges are navigating rapid change, increasing complexity, and heightened expectations for student success. Since 2020, leaders have strengthened relationships, built trust, and guided cultural and structural transformation. This session brings together Wake Technical Community College and Randolph Community College to examine trust-centered leadership and intentional culture-building that drive stability and momentum. Wake Tech applied The Thin Book of Trust to improve communication and collaboration. Randolph aligned people, processes, and purpose through a One College model, ACES, and SEM plan. Participants will gain practical strategies to strengthen trust, align teams, and sustain momentum in student success efforts.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306C **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Office of Emergency Medical Services — Education Update 2026

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

OEMS Education Staff
Education Staff, North Carolina Office of EMS

Todd Messer
NCOEMS

Participants will gain valuable information regarding: - OEMS Institution expectations and requirements - Program Director, Instructor expectations and requirements - Ongoing issues (Compliance, not meeting agency needs, etc.) - Ongoing challenges facing EMS Education - Q&A session

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 206 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

One Front Door, One Team: Aligning Advising, Onboarding, and Culture for Student Success

Room 206 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Adam Wade
Associate Vice President of Onboarding and Advising, Alamance Community College

Elizabeth Brehler
Alamance Community College

This session explores how community colleges can create a more seamless, student-centered experience by aligning advising, onboarding, and cross-departmental collaboration. Participants will examine the shift toward a “one front door” approach and coordinated advising structures that reduce confusion and improve access. Beyond structural change, the session will highlight the critical role of culture — building trust, strengthening communication, and preparing staff for change. Through real-world examples and lessons learned, attendees will gain practical strategies to break down silos, support staff through transition, and design a more connected student experience that promotes persistence and success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 12 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Redefining Honors: An Inclusive Approach to Workforce Readiness and Student Potential

Table 12 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Deninne Pritchett
Founding Faculty Director, Central Piedmont Truist Honors Program, Central Piedmont Community College

While many honors programs focus strictly on academics, our model prioritizes students’ professional and transferable skills. This session redefines honors as an inclusive “excellence incubator” for every discipline. By shifting from elitism to untapped potential, we position honors as a strategic investment in graduates’ holistic development. Our model integrates four key areas: academic rigor, professional readiness, personal growth, and social connection. By repurposing existing institutional assets, colleges can launch a program regardless of available financial resources. Attendees will leave with ideas for transforming current institutional resources into a powerful engine for student excellence and transformative career success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

RPED Foothills FORWARD: Facilitating an Occupation-Ready Workforce by Addressing Regional Demands

Room 303 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Greg Thomas
Isothermal Community College

Samantha Dotson
McDowell Technical Community College

Susan Berley
Western Piedmont Community College

Valerie Dobson
McDowell Technical Community College

Participants will explore the Foothills FORWARD regional collaboration grant between Isothermal, McDowell Tech, and Western Piedmont Community Colleges as it reaches its halfway point. This session highlights how three rural institutions leveraged Success Coaches, InsideTrack, and other resources to provide wrap-around support for students. Attendees will examine the strategies and resources these colleges have used to serve a high-poverty, rural population. Learning outcomes include methods for building regional train-the-trainer models and success coaching frameworks for increasing postsecondary attainment in high-skill, high-demand career pathways. Participants will gain actionable insights into scaling holistic student supports across multiple neighboring colleges.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 202 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Small Business, Big Impact: Expanding Access to Workforce Solutions Statewide

Room 202 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

John Loyack
North Carolina Community College System

This panel discussion focuses on how the Economic Development Division supports small businesses through flexible training pathways, shared-cohort models, and local college partnerships. Participants will learn practical strategies for engaging small employers, strengthening regional ecosystems, and expanding the reach of NCCCS resources. Anne Shaw, State Director, Small Business Center Network, will lead a discussion with three CC employees from different roles.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 10 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Teaching with Intention: Faculty Strategies for Centering Students and Building Workforce-Ready Skills

Table 10 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Dr. Marlena Thomas
Associate Dean/Social and Human Services and Psychology Instructor, Gaston College

This session examines how intentional faculty practices serve as an essential investment in preparing students for the future of work. Participants will learn a structured framework for scaffolding clinical and professional skills that strengthen communication, critical thinking, accountability, and workplace readiness in Allied Health and other professional programs. The session highlights practical strategies that center students through purposeful instruction, clear expectations, and aligned assessment without increasing faculty workload. Attendees will leave with replicable tools to enhance engagement, promote professional identity formation, and ensure graduates are equipped with transferable skills aligned to workforce demands.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 1 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Tech Apprenticeship in the Age of AI

Table 1 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Chris O'Rourke
CISCO

Daisy Magnus-Aryitey
Code the Dream

Dan Rearick
Code the Dream

Manuel Ramos

Participants will explore how Registered Apprenticeship can serve as an essential pathway into tech careers — even as AI disrupts the entry-level roles that once served as the bottom rung of the career ladder. Drawing on Code the Dream's experience as one of NC's largest tech apprenticeship programs, this panel — featuring program, employer and alumni perspectives — will share a proven model yielding 80%+ conversion to software engineering roles at starting salaries averaging over $90,000. Participants will also examine how AI continues to reshape these pathways and what that means for workforce education and access to opportunity.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 2 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

The Lost Art of Respectful Tolerance: Creating a Culture of Respect Through Difficult Conversations

Table 2 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Lisa Moran
Central Piedmont Community College

Leaders today navigate complex conversations shaped by strong personalities, competing priorities, and emotional dynamics. When these interactions go unaddressed, meetings become unproductive and team trust declines. Participants will learn how to use the RESPECT Method™, a practical framework grounded in real-world leadership experience, to manage difficult conversations and maintain respectful, productive dialogue. The session provides actionable strategies and language participants can use immediately to redirect unproductive behaviors, re-engage quieter voices, and contribute to a culture of respect and accountability that strengthens team effectiveness and supports student-centered institutional goals.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 5 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

The Road to Enrollment: Meeting Students Where They Are

Table 5 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Round Table

Carla Williams
Director of Admissions and Student Records, Craven Community College

In today's enrollment environment, students need more than just information. They need connection, visibility, and a clear sense that college is affordable and accessible. This session explores how Craven Community College utilizes community-based, student-centered outreach to strengthen recruitment and create meaningful on-ramps to enrollment. By moving beyond traditional, passive recruitment, we prioritize relationship-driven engagement that supports students from their first inquiry to their first day of class. Participants will learn how community visibility, intentional partnerships, and personalized outreach strategies can drive both enrollment growth and early student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306A **11:15 AM - 12:00 PM**

Trauma-Informed Community Colleges: A Systems Approach to Student Success

Room 306A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

George (Tripp) Ake III
Center for Child and Family, Durham NC

North Carolina's community colleges are serving increasing numbers of students impacted by stress, trauma, and adverse life experiences. This session highlights a statewide initiative led by the North Carolina Community College System in partnership with the Center for Child and Family Health to integrate trauma-informed principles into curriculum design, instructional practice, and faculty development. Designed for Chief Academic Officers and campus leaders, this presentation will focus on how trauma-informed strategies strengthen student persistence, academic performance, and completion across programs — not as a counseling intervention, but as an instructional and institutional effectiveness strategy.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 7 **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Unmuted Potential: Helping Students Shine in Asynchronous Public Speaking

Table 7 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Jill Lettieri
Professor, College of The Albemarle

Online public speaking courses often yield lower success rates than traditional classrooms, largely due to limited speaking practice. I have designed weekly, low-stakes speech assignments that can significantly improve student engagement and skill development. These short speeches provide consistent opportunities to practice writing, organizing, and delivering content, supported by scaffolded outlining techniques. Students respond positively to these flexible, low-pressure topics, demonstrating increased confidence and measurable improvement over time. This session will share outcomes, assignment design, and practical strategies participants can immediately implement to enhance student success, persistence, and performance in asynchronous public speaking courses.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302B **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Upstream Disruption: How K-12 Policy Shifts Are Redefining Community College Strategy

Room 302B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Nicole Umphlett
Compliance Officer, Grants Coordinator, College of The Albemarle

K-12 policy changes, including the expansion of school choice and private school enrollment, are reshaping the student pipeline into community colleges. This session equips participants with a data-informed understanding of these upstream shifts and their potential implications for student preparation, expectations, and enrollment patterns. Participants will assess institutional readiness, identify gaps in current systems and processes, and explore strategies to strengthen strategic planning, advising, and recruitment practices. The session emphasizes leadership decision-making, policy implementation, and the development of responsive systems that improve student experience, reduce administrative burden, and preserve institutional identity.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302C **11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**

Wraparound Student Supports in the Conduct Process

Room 302C | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Scott Jaeschke
Guilford Technical Community College

Thomas Barksdale
Guilford Technical Community College

The college's student conduct officers will share how they have built a team of service partners across the institution to provide comprehensive student support during the investigation, adjudication, and sanctioning process. Participants will consider how student crises both inform and are informed by the conduct process; how cases are triaged between conduct and behavioral intervention; how support offices have been selected for partnership and referral; how student and employee empowerment has been a focus of the conduct work; and how the office has sought to measure student outcomes in part through expanded feelings of agency.

Thursday, Oct 15: Grand Ballroom **12:30 PM - 02:00 PM**

Keynote: Next Frontiers for Community College Innovation: Redesigning the Student Experience for Educational and Career Success

Grand Ballroom

Andrea Crowley
NC Student Success Center

Davis Jenkins
Senior Research Scholar, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University

Hana Lahr
Assistant Director of Research and Director of Applied Learning, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University
Joel Welch
President, Western Piedmont Community College

Drawing on a decade of research on guided pathways reforms and their new book, More Essential Than Ever: Community College Pathways to Educational and Career Success, CCRC researchers Davis Jenkins and Hana Lahr will explore the next frontiers for helping community college students succeed—not only in college, but in careers and further education after they complete. They will highlight five areas for further innovation and take a deeper look at how colleges can redesign recruitment and onboarding so that every student develops a purposeful educational plan aligned with their interests, strengths, and aspirations.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 307 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Beyond the Five-Paragraph Paradigm

Room 307 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Brendan Walsh
English and Humanities Faculty, South Piedmont Community College

Katherine Widner
South Piedmont Community College

This concurrent session and generative workshop will examine how faculty can implement writing practices to prepare students for creative problem solving and multiple career pathways. Participants will learn techniques to incorporate writing-focused exercises and assignments based on discipline-specific needs, with presenters offering tips on building writing assessments that challenge the five-paragraph essay paradigm through insights into grant writing, writing across the curriculum, and transcribing and translating archaic texts. By the end of the session, participants will select one assessment from their course to transform into an example of “real-world writing” based on discipline-specific needs and demands.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306A **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Accessible Data, Better Decisions: Power BI Dashboards in Action for Faculty and Staff

Room 306A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Alana Baker
Rockingham Community College

Joshua Osborne
Director of Information Systems and Institutional Research, Rockingham Community College

Participants will explore how Power BI dashboards strengthen leadership and institutional capacity and drive decision making through the use of interactive data. The session will demonstrate how Power BI dashboards work and how Rockingham Community College leverages dashboards to provide faculty and staff with timely, actionable insights that support student success, operational effectiveness, and strategic planning. The session will show how accessible data empowers employees at all levels to make informed decisions and respond proactively to challenges. Attendees will gain practical ideas for using dashboards as leadership tools to drive innovation and continuous improvement.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301B **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

An Essential Investment: Strengthening Allied Health Pathways Through Student-Centered Faculty Engagement and Motivation

Room 301B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Dr. Erica Harper
Program Director for Medical Assisting and Social & Services, Wilkes Community College

Mercedes Kamoru
Vance-Granville Community College

Community college students in health science and CTE programs often balance work, family, and financial demands while showing strong motivation and resilience. Yet stop-out and delayed progression remain common. This session examines how academic buoyancy and motivation interact with institutional barriers such as unclear pathways and rigid scheduling. Drawing on NCCCS research, it highlights how systems can either support or disrupt student momentum. Participants will explore strategies to reduce “loss points,” strengthen advising and faculty engagement, and design flexible pathways that better support continuation and student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 3 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Beyond the Bookshelf: Supporting Student Success Through a Collaborative Learning Commons Model

Table 3 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Kayla Page
Cape Fear Community College

Mary DiRisio
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Many community colleges are moving toward a Learning Commons model (libraries, tutoring, and other student-centered services) to ensure students don't get lost between different departments. By connecting with other schools to share best practices, colleges are supporting a central location for student support. Session participants will see examples of best practices, such as collaboration and resource sharing, that support tutoring, counseling, libraries, and other services. Attendees will leave with practical ideas for bringing student services together to provide the complete support students need today.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 8 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Communication Across the Curriculum: A College-Wide Approach to Student Success

Table 8 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Connie Gardner
South Piedmont Community College

Participants will explore how South Piedmont Community College's Multimedia Information & Communication (MIC) Center implemented a scaffolded, five-session professional development model designed to embed communication instruction across all disciplines. Attendees will gain practical frameworks, including threshold concepts, learning bottlenecks, and unit communication plans to intentionally integrate oral, written, nonverbal, and design communication into their own curricula. Participants will discover how cross-departmental collaboration breaks institutional silos, aligns assignments to student learning outcomes, and builds transferable communication skills essential for workforce readiness. Attendees will leave with tools and strategies to launch or strengthen a Communication Across the Curriculum initiative at their institution.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 7 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Compliance Meets Creativity: Innovating RSI in Higher Education

Table 7 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Kayleon Elliott
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

This session will focus on the principles of effective online engagement through Regular and Substantive Interaction. We will examine RSI from both the instructor and student perspectives, exploring common challenges institutions face in meeting compliance standards while maintaining flexibility and creativity. A well-rounded RSI strategy sets both faculty and students up for success, ensuring regulatory requirements are met while fostering dynamic, student-centered learning environments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 201 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Contextualization: A Data-Driven Approach to Improving Success in Gateway Courses

Room 201 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

John Bowman
Program Head, University Transfer; English Department Head, Stanly Community College

Sue Drake, Ed.D.
Program Head: K-12 Education, Stanly Community College

The Stanly Community College English Department has used data-driven strategies to guide efforts to better meet student needs in gateway courses. In this presentation, participants will learn about one of those initiatives, which is SCC's use of contextualized English 111 shells that better engage specific student populations. This presentation will cover how the initiative began, how it has progressed, and how SCC's data conclusively shows that these efforts are having a positive impact on success rates while also lowering withdrawal rates. Practical ideas about how to duplicate these efforts at other institutions will also be shared.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 206 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Development and Implementation of a Mentor-Based Advisor Training Course for Faculty and Staff

Room 206 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

John Kiser
Director of Center for Teaching and Learning, Western Piedmont Community College

As part of Western Piedmont Community College's QEP and Title III grant, faculty and staff developed an innovative, mentor-based training course for new advisors. This course was designed to leverage institutional capacity and resources, focus on advising challenges unique to WPCC, and utilize experienced advisors in a leadership role. Participants will learn how course content and activities were developed with local, state, and national resources. Participants will also learn about the role of mentor and mentee relationships in this course. Finally, participants will learn about the challenges of implementing the course and upcoming changes to the course.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 202 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

From Compliance to Clarity: Faculty-Centered General Education Assessment

Room 202 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Joshua Alcocer
College of the albemarle

Laura Morrison
Dept Chair, English and Communication, College of The Albemarle

Lisa Meads
Dean, Arts and Sciences, College of the albemarle

General education assessment often becomes a compliance task with limited impact on teaching or student learning. This session presents a redesign that prioritizes faculty involvement, focus, data clarity, and actionable results. The model prioritizes faculty planning and discussions while aligning outcomes with instructional decision-making. Participants will examine key changes, including narrowing assessment focus, using common tools, and improving reporting structures. Attendees will leave with a practical framework, sample tools, and strategies to redesign assessment systems that are efficient, meaningful, and sustainable across programs and delivery formats.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 12 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

From Idea to Income: Building Entrepreneurial Pathways Aligned with Local Workforce Needs

Table 12 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Meg Johnson
Director, Small Business Center, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Community colleges play a critical role in preparing individuals for employment, yet entrepreneurship is often overlooked as a viable workforce pathway. This session explores how small business programming can be intentionally designed to align with regional workforce needs while creating faster, more flexible pathways to income. Participants will learn how to identify high-demand local opportunities, design practical programs that move individuals from idea to launch, and build partnerships that support sustainable business growth. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen workforce alignment by integrating entrepreneurship into their college's economic and workforce development efforts.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306B **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

From Power Skills to Practice: A Scaffolded Partnership Model for Student Success

Room 306B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Carolyn Hoffman
Wake Technical Community College

Gracy Byfield
UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine

Jackie Swanik
Wake Technical Community College

Stephanie Rollins
Wake Technical Community College

Participants will learn a scaffolded partnership model for developing work-ready skills through collaboration between student services, an undergraduate research program, and university partners. Attendees will leave with a replicable three-semester pathway: industry professionals mentor students on power skills (communication, time management, teamwork, critical thinking, professionalism) in semester one; faculty mentor technical STEM research skills in semester two; and university laboratory placements integrate both skill sets in semester three. Attendees will receive actionable steps, partner roles, and strategies to enhance persistence, career readiness, and transfer success, as well as opportunities to learn from both presenters and peers.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 4 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Increasing Engagement in Asynchronous Courses

Table 4 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Danielle Hennis
Wake Technical Community College

Asynchronous courses offer flexibility, but they can also leave students feeling disconnected or overwhelmed. This session focuses on practical changes instructors can make to create more engaging and supportive online learning experiences. Participants will reflect on common challenges in their own courses and learn strategies that improve participation and student success. They will then discuss and learn from each other by sharing what has and hasn't worked in their own courses. By learning from both examples and each other, participants will leave with actionable ideas they can immediately apply to better support student success in asynchronous environments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302B **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Level Up: Elevating ROI Through First-Gen Financial Empowerment

Room 302B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Laura Bethea-Lewis
Title IX, Student Success & Strategic Innovation, Wake Technical Community College

Richard Redding
Wake Technical Community College - Impact Council

Financial challenges are a defining barrier for First-Generation College Students, and national data reinforces how strongly financial strain affects persistence. The presenters will “level up” the conversation on First-Gen financial empowerment by examining how financial realities shape academic decisions, engagement, and persistence. They will share data-driven strategies that elevate institutional ROI through partnership-based frameworks that integrate financial literacy, mentorship, and bridge students to essential resources. This session highlights scalable practices that cultivate a culture of care and strengthen long-term First-Gen student success. Participants will be able to identify evidence-informed strategies and develop actionable, campus-relevant implementation steps.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Measuring What Matters: An interdisciplinary AI AssessmentTool

Room 303 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Cathleen Clough DiDonato
Wake Tech Community College

Deanna Blatchford
Wake Tech

Kate Jones
Professor, Communicaton, Wake Tech

Stacy Barnes
Wake Tech

Participants will explore a cross-disciplinary, faculty-developed AI Assessment Scale designed for higher education. Grounded in student survey data indicating a strong desire for consistent, transparent guidance, this student-centered framework helps instructors clearly communicate expectations for AI use while building transferable skills such as critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and digital fluency. Attendees will examine how the adaptable scale can be customized for specific courses, integrated across disciplines, and aligned with workforce-relevant competencies, supporting clearer expectations and preparing students for evolving career pathways.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 304 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Monitoring Student Academic Progress with NCCCS Dashboards

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Elizabeth Stoddard
North Carolina Community College System Office

This session will provide an overview of a suite of recently-released NCCCS dashboards designed to help colleges track and monitor student academic progress. Participants will receive a demonstration of the dashboards and learn practical tips for navigating features and applying the data to their work. The session will cover dashboard access, data disaggregation, and drilling into the student-level data behind the dashboards, equipping users to better understand and monitor student outcomes.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

National Partner Strategy Level Up: Centering Student Voice

Room 402 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Andrea Crowley
NC Student Success Center

Dr. Felita Carr
Director, Holistic Student Strategies, NC Student Success Center

Participants will learn how a national–state–college partnership used student voice to strengthen and scale strategy beyond a single grant or program. Using Johnston Community College as a case example, this session demonstrates how student engagement, research-informed design, and clearly defined partner roles can translate lived experience into actionable campus change and state-level strategy. Participants will gain practical insights on aligning national expertise with local context, avoiding duplication, and sustaining work through policy and practice integration.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305B **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

North Carolina's HSE Pathways: More Than Just a Test

Room 305B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jenifer Bean
North Carolina Community College System Office

There are four different ways for adults without a high school diploma to earn a High School Equivalency (HSE) credential in the state of North Carolina. In this session, participants will discover available options for HSE attainment and determine how different pathways might best serve different populations of learners in their journey toward college and career success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302A **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Not Your Ordinary Summer Camp

Room 302A | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Frankye Boone Newkirk
Southeastern Community College

This session highlights an innovative 8-week Summer Career Pathways Camp designed for rising juniors, seniors, and recent graduates to explore high-demand fields—welding, healthcare, agribusiness, construction, automotive, and electrical. Through hands-on training, students earn industry-recognized credentials, along with high school and college credits that stack into certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees. Aligned with regional workforce needs, this affordable, employer-driven model connects education to employment through mock interviews, Lunch & Learn industry panels, and a culminating skills showcase. Strong partnerships with employers and colleges ensure efficient, real-world pathways that build talent pipelines and reduce time and cost to career readiness.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306C **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Pathways to Reentry: How Education Partnerships Prepare Incarcerated Students for Success

Room 306C | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Chris Helms
Associate VP for Workforce/Continuing Education, Mayland Community College

Keegan Anderson
VP of Instruction/CAO, Mayland Community College

This session highlights how institutions can build or strengthen partnerships with local prisons to expand educational access and workforce opportunity. Presenters will share Mayland Community College's partnership with Avery Mitchell Correctional Institute and the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections. The collaboration focuses on launching curriculum programs, positioning the initiative as a destination program for incarcerated students, and creating a structured learning environment that supports focus, personal growth, and preparation for successful reentry into the community.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 1 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Reimagining Transfer Pathways: The UNC Charlotte–Central Piedmont STEP Partnership

Table 1 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Kristen Siarzynski
University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Stacy Moore
Central Piedmont Community College

Participants will learn how UNC Charlotte and Central Piedmont created a Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan (STEP) to strengthen a long-standing partnership and improve outcomes for transfer students. Presenters will share how they used research, customized data reports, and facilitated cross-institutional dialogue to dismantle silos and design an ambitious, student-centered transfer plan. Attendees will hear key strategies that have been developed, including practical approaches to aligning policies, enhancing communication, and improving student momentum toward a bachelor's degree. Participants will leave with replicable ideas to advance transfer excellence at their own institutions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302C **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Rethinking the Survey-Level History Course

Room 302C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Cliff Berry
Wilkes Community College

What is the purpose of the survey-level history course? Some argue that they should be content-driven to achieve some level of historical literacy. Others believe that the curriculum should place an emphasis on evidence of critical thinking, the application of historical thinking skills, and the production of work that shows quality and effort. This session will highlight our efforts to produce history courses that support both historical literacy and the development of thinking skills. The results are courses that teach and nurture thinking skills through a curriculum that is project-based, skills-based, embraces student choice, and utilizes diversity in assessments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 5 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Rural Innovation in Action: Building an AI Curriculum Engine Through Community Partnerships

Table 5 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Andrew Walker
Wilson Community College

Angela Herring
Wilson Technical Community College

Cameryn Mitchell
Center on Rural Innovation

Emily Wells
Wilson North Carolina

This session highlights a collaborative effort between the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) and two rural participant communities: Rutherford and Wilson County, North Carolina. Grounded in CORI's Rural Innovation Network model, each community is supported by local anchors: REIGN (Rutherford Education, Innovation, & Growth Network) and Isothermal Community College in Rutherford County and Greenlight/Gig East and Wilson Community College in Wilson. Together, these communities are developing an AI Curriculum Engine: a two-part system that helps instructors/trainers rapidly build locally relevant, policy-compliant AI training for any workforce or community audience.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 2 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Scaling Virtual ESL: Practical Strategies for Recruitment, Registration, & Retention

Table 2 | Round Table

Claudia Clayton
Central Carolina Community College

Rachel Minton
Career Pathways Coordinator, Central Carolina Community College

As demand for fully virtual ESL instruction grows, colleges must reimagine recruitment, registration, assessment, and onboarding procedures. This session highlights strategies for expanding distance CCR offerings while maintaining compliance and student-centered support. Participants will learn best practices for fully virtual recruitment, streamlined registration workflows, remote assessment implementation, and effective data collection aligned with NRS requirements. Presenters will share practical tools, lessons learned, and troubleshooting insights that reduce administrative burden and improve early student engagement. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to build scalable virtual on-ramps that strengthen access and early student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 13 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Stackable Healthcare Credentials: Designing Pathways that Respond to Workforce Needs

Table 13 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Melissa Smith
Sr State Director of Health Science Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

Participants will learn how stackable credential pathways can expand access to healthcare careers while responding to employer workforce needs. This session explores how community colleges can design coordinated credential pathways that allow students to enter the workforce quickly while continuing their education over time. Presenters will highlight examples of short-term training programs, diploma pathways, and associate degree programs that align with workforce demand and support career advancement. Participants will gain strategies for structuring stackable credentials that reduce time to employment, support lifelong learning, and create flexible entry points into healthcare professions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 11 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Start Strong. Stay Supported. Succeed: Integrating Enrollment, Advising, and Student Success

Table 11 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Bernadette Ragland-Bailey
Piedmont Community College

Paulita Williams
Piedmont Community College

Piedmont Community College will share practical, data-driven strategies to boost enrollment, increase credential completion, and connect students to careers. Participants will learn how to: - Analyze enrollment and success data to target staffing and supports - Implement early-alert interventions to keep students on track - Align technology with marketing across the student journey - Build employer partnerships that expand work-based learning and job opportunities Attendees will leave with actionable tools to strengthen student persistence, improve completion rates, and help graduates secure meaningful employment.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 9 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Teaching as Intellectual Work: Building Systemwide Capacity Through Practitioner Scholarship

Table 9 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Elizabeth Braun
Catawba Valley Community College

Meret Burke
Wilkes Community College

This session will examine how practitioner scholarship strengthens institutional capacity and centers students in the future of work. Participants will explore how documenting and publishing teaching innovation elevates evidence-informed practice, supports data-driven decision-making, and amplifies community college expertise statewide. The session will highlight examples of practitioner scholarship from the North Carolina Community College Journal of Teaching Innovation, clarify expectations for developmental peer review, and outline strategies for cultivating faculty confidence in inquiry and publication. Attendees will gain practical approaches for building a culture that treats teaching as intellectual work and leverages scholarly reflection to improve student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 205 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Teaching with Purpose — Building Teacher Efficacy Through Student-Centered Practices

Room 205 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Aja Winstead
Director of Adult High Schools & Career Pathways, Cape Fear Community College

Teaching with Purpose — Building Teacher Efficacy Through Student-Centered Practices is a focused professional development designed to strengthen educators' belief in their impact while promoting student ownership of learning. This session explores teacher efficacy and its direct influence on student outcomes, and guides participants in shifting from teacher-directed instruction to student-centered practices. Educators will examine how voice, choice, and real-world relevance increase engagement and achievement. Through guided reflection, participants will evaluate current practices and identify strategic shifts that enhance instructional impact, foster deeper learning, and create more responsive, student-centered classroom environments.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 204 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

The First Mile Matters: Reimagining Recruitment, Onboarding & Early Student Momentum

Room 204 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

LaTonya Nixon
Beaufort County Community College

In today's evolving higher education landscape, institutions must move beyond traditional recruitment and onboarding to create intentional, equity-minded pathways that support students from first contact through their first year. This session highlights innovative, student-centered strategies to strengthen transitions and improve early success. Participants will explore practical approaches using personalization, technology, and cross-campus collaboration to remove barriers, foster belonging, and accelerate momentum. Grounded in access, completion, and economic mobility, this session offers scalable practices institutions can implement immediately.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 10 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

The Social Infrastructure

Table 10 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Amy Brooks
Piedmont Community College

Dr. Cheston Saunders
Director, Distance Learning, Piedmont Community College

While the current push tends to lean more towards AI, the real heart is in its people. This session will explore how intentional social moments lead to building trust that allows innovation, creation, creativity, and collaboration to thrive. Participants will see how important these connections can be and how strategic planning can also lead to cultivation of community.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305A **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

UNC System Transfer Updates & Feedback Session

Room 305A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jami Dawkins
Asst. Director for Transfer Programs, UNC System Office

The UNC System is excited to share system-level transfer updates from 2025-2026. In this session, attendees will learn about transfer initiatives from the UNC System Office including: Transfer Guides, Transfer Student and Credit Appeals Portal, 2025 Regulation to Foster Undergraduate Transfer Student Success, NCCCS/UNC System Collaboration, and more. In addition to sharing updates, the UNC System will invite attendees to provide feedback on these initiatives and the overall Transfer Ecosystem of North Carolina. Attendees will gain helpful insights for their day-to-day work with students and enjoy lively discussion as efforts continue in hopes of improving transfer experiences across NC.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 6 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Why Me? Combating Impostor Syndrome in the Community College Educator

Table 6 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Kory Lane
Piedmont Community College

Impostor feelings and educator burnout affect community college faculty. This interactive session explores the impostor phenomenon, its impact on teaching effectiveness, retention, and leadership development, and evidence-informed strategies to foster confidence, healthy humility, and growth-minded instructional cultures. Participants will engage in reflection, peer discussion, and practical tools they can immediately apply within their departments and institutions. At the completion of the session, students will be able to: - Describe Impostor Phenomenon including definition and history - Discuss how Impostor Phenomenon / Syndrome impacts the Community College Educator - List strategies to combat Impostor Phenomenon

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301A **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Work-Based Learning for Faster Workforce Outcomes

Room 301A | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Ed Carroll
Carolina Cyber Center

Jennifer Fix
N.C. Department of Information Technology

Jennifer Medina
N.C. Department of Information Technology

Marcus Holley
Internship Program Manager, IT, Carolina Cyber Network

Participants will learn how to design employer-aligned, efficient pathways that integrate work-based learning into academic programs to reduce time to completion and improve workforce outcomes. Through the Carolina Cyber Network's scalable, partnership-driven model, they will explore strategies to align curriculum, credentials, and employer expectations while expanding access to meaningful applied experience. Participants will gain practical tools to strengthen partnerships, embed internships as credit-bearing components, and streamline pathways. Each attendee will leave with a clear, actionable plan to enhance affordability, efficiency, and employment readiness within their institution or organization.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 203 **02:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

Workforce and Career Implications of Transfer: Lessons from the Data

Room 203 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Carmen Serrata
UNC Charlotte

Holley Nichols
Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research

Jenn Gardner Selby
Dean, General Education & Transfer, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Mark D'Amico
UNC Charlotte

Sandra Dika
UNC Charlotte

The Belk Center and UNC Charlotte Transfer Research Team will share findings related to four interconnected transfer contexts. Participants will learn about Lightcast occupational projections, education levels, and earnings for NC economic priorities. Next will be an exploration of transfer student voices related to educational goals and career intentions. Attendees will then learn about predictors of associate degree completion and transfer for AAS enrollees, followed by an analysis of credit mobility and baccalaureate completion for AAS students in specific fields. The Transfer Advisory Committee Chair will facilitate the session and conclude with dialogue for improved policy and practice.

Thursday, Oct 15: Exhibit Hall **03:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

Beverage & Ice Cream Break in Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306B **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

AI for Everyone: No-Code Projects that Work in Classrooms and Across Campus

Room 306B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Tonya Stephens
Blue Ridge Community College

Participants will explore how no-code artificial intelligence tools can be used to build versatile, transferable skills across classrooms and campus roles. Through hands-on activities, participants will learn how to create simple AI models using Orange Data Mining and apply AI tools such as ChatGPT to support instruction, student engagement, and daily workflows. Participants will leave with ready-to-use classroom activities, practical staff applications, and a flexible framework for integrating AI that prepares students and employees for evolving workforce demands.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 5 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

"Be Curious, Not Judgmental" Coaching Interpersonal Communication with Ted Lasso and His Team

Table 5 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Jill Lettieri
Professor, College of The Albemarle

Interpersonal communication theory can feel abstract — but what happens when students see it in action? This session demonstrates how Ted Lasso brings interpersonal and multicultural communication to life through authentic dialogue and diverse relationships across workplace, family, friendship, and romance. Using curated YouTube clips, participants will observe empathy, conflict, listening, and cultural perspectives as they unfold in real time. These moments deepen understanding of theory while strengthening critical thinking and listening skills. Integrating media like this in any course makes complex concepts clearer, more engaging, and more accessible—helping students connect course material to their own lives and a diverse, …

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 8 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

AI as My Teaching Mentor: Transforming Gen Ed Faculty Practice Through Guided Reflection

Table 8 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Christopher Moore
Department Head, Social Sciences, Catawba Valley Community College

David Fonseca
Dean - School of General Education, Catawba Valley Community College

Ethan Brooks-Livingston
Catawba Valley Community College

Participants will explore a practical model that uses artificial intelligence as a self-structured teaching mentor to strengthen course design, assignments, and student learning outcomes. Drawing on an adapted Instructional Rounds approach from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, this session demonstrates how faculty can use AI to analyze their own teaching practices, increase cognitive rigor, and align instruction with workforce-ready skills. Participants will engage in a guided activity using sample prompts and leave with a replicable framework to support continuous improvement, reduce fear of AI, and move beyond “business as usual” teaching.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302B **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Beyond the Appointment: The Impact of Culturally Responsive Advising on Career Readiness

Room 302B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Eduniz Mendez
Academic Advisor, Central Piedmont Community College

This proposal examines the impact of culturally responsive advising in community colleges, which often serve as students’ primary pathway to the workforce. Advising practices grounded in cultural competence enable college professionals to better support students from diverse identity-based and life circumstances, fostering belonging while addressing non-academic needs alongside academic and career goals. By supporting students holistically, advisors can better prepare them for employment and life after graduation. This session highlights the role of advisors and support staff in implementing culturally responsive practices, identifies legal frameworks related to equity in education, and examines student barriers on campus.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 303 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Building Efficient Workforce Related Bilateral Agreements

Room 303 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Seth Kamen
North Carolina Community College System

Associate in Applied Science (AAS) transfer is rapidly becoming a critical pathway for students seeking both workforce readiness and continued education. Building strong partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions is essential to maximize credit mobility and create seamless opportunities for learners. This session will explore strategies for developing effective AAS bilateral agreements that support student success and institutional collaboration. Transfer professionals will share practical experiences, lessons learned, and promising practices for building and sustaining these partnerships.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 10 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Centralizing Employer Engagement: WPCC's Workforce Connect Journey

Table 10 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Cindy Davies
Vice President, Academic Affairs & Workforce Development, Western Piedmont Community College

Joel Welch
President, Western Piedmont Community College

Western Piedmont Community College will share its implementation of Workforce Connect, a centralized platform designed to strengthen and streamline employer and community partnerships. Participants will learn how WPCC's team aligned people, processes, and technology to transition from decentralized relationship management to a shared, institution-wide system. The session will highlight collaboration with the vendor's customer success team as well as internal expectations for roles, access, communication protocols, and data standards. Presenters will discuss how intentional project design supported expanded employer engagement while improving transparency, consistency, and accountability as we as lessons learned throughout the process.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301A **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Engage, Adopt, Retain: Using Interactive Tools to Build AI-Resistant Critical Thinkers

Room 301A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Andy Toshniwal
FeedbackFruits

Gabrielle Rumley-Smith
Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, Rockingham Community College, Rockingham Community College

Come ready to engage. In this hands-on session, you'll experience the FeedbackFruits interactive tools Rockingham Community College used to transform online assignments from a checkbox into a genuine learning engine — one resistant to AI. We'll pull back the curtain on our faculty adoption journey, including the gamification strategies that turned skeptical instructors into enthusiastic adopters, and share the retention data that made administrators take notice. Whether you're just starting to explore AI-resistant design and online engagement, or are ready to scale what's working, you'll leave with practical strategies and a framework built for courses of all modalities.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306A **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

From Shop Floor to Workforce: How JCC Prepares the Next Generation of Diesel Technicians

Room 306A | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Sarah Hartley
Johnston Community College

Johnston Community College (JCC) prepares diesel technicians for career success through strong partnerships with industry leaders. Collaborating with top employers and manufacturers, JCC aligns its curriculum with real-world workforce needs, ensuring students gain hands-on experience with current technologies and equipment. Advisory boards and employer feedback directly shape program development, keeping training relevant and future-focused. These partnerships also provide internships, certifications, and job placement opportunities, allowing graduates to transition seamlessly into the workforce as highly skilled, in-demand diesel technicians. Presentation takeaways will include how to build industry partnerships, aligning curriculum with industry needs/standards, and examinations of student case studies.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 4 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Good, Better, Best: A Practical Framework for Course Design That Faculty Will Actually Use

Table 4 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Char Davis
Director of Teaching, Mitchell Community College

Participants will explore a practical Good-Better-Best framework for improving course design without starting from scratch. This session provides a simple, scalable approach that helps faculty and staff identify high-impact changes that improve clarity, accessibility, engagement, and student success. Grounded in quality course design principles, the framework offers realistic entry points for improvement rather than requiring full course redesign. Attendees will leave with examples and a flexible model they can immediately apply across programs and modalities.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 11 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

How Well Are We Really Serving Adult Learners? A Campus Wide Perspective

Table 11 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Lauri Stilwell
Director, Adult Learner Initiative, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

This proposal presents findings from a Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute survey evaluating whether adult learners are being fully served. Using the NCCCS Adult Learner Experience Walk Through, loaned from the NCCCS Student Success Center, the study asked faculty/staff and students about practices, policies and support. Results revealed affirming points in meeting adult learner needs, but potential gaps as well. Insights from the survey were shared to inform a growing community of practice, fostering collaboration and continuous improvement. Attendees will gain practical strategies and a replicable framework for assessing and enhancing adult learner experiences at their own institutions.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 1 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Implementing Aviation Programs-Lessons Learned

Table 1 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Round Table

Dusk Stroud
Lenoir Community College

Participants will gain practical insight into the development and sustainability of aviation programs, with attention to curriculum design, regulatory requirements, and alignment with industry needs. The session draws on implementation experience to highlight key lessons, including approaches to building employer partnerships, securing funding, and addressing common challenges. Participants will also explore strategies for student recruitment and retention, the integration of hands-on training, and methods for aligning programs with workforce demand. The session offers clear, actionable guidance to support stronger outcomes and the expansion of aviation pathways across institutions and communities.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 206 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Innovations in Information Technology: Programs, AI, and Industry Collaboration

Room 206 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Hilmi Lahoud
NCCCS

This session provides an overview of the current status of information technology-related programs and courses. The presentation includes newly developed AI courses, industry partnerships, best practices, and access to industry resources. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 306C **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Intentional Events, Lasting Impact

Room 306C | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jennifer Cotten
Access to Achievement Coordinator, James Sprunt Community College

Marsha Hicks
James Sprunt Community College

Mollie Johnson
Access to Achievement Coordinator, James Sprunt Community College

Taylor Morrison
James Sprunt Community College

Participants will learn how to intentionally design and deliver impactful events that expand their reach beyond one-on-one coaching. This session guides career coaches & advisors through identifying their ideal audience, clarifying the problem they solve, and defining the transformation participants seek. Attendees will explore how events build credibility, deepen connections, and grow visibility while creating meaningful experiences. The session covers event design essentials, including clear goals, interactive elements, logistics, promotion, and follow-up. Participants will leave with practical tools, renewed confidence, and a step-by-step framework to create memorable, on-brand events that inspire action and drive lasting impact.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 12 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Let's Build a HIP Peer Tutoring Program

Table 12 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Nolan Outlaw
Wake Technical Community College - Impact Council

Participants will learn how to design, implement, and scale a peer tutoring program that improves student success and builds institutional capacity. Drawing on Wake Tech's program, which has provided over 1,000 sessions since Fall 2023, this session will share strategies for tutor recruitment, training, data tracking, and continuous improvement. Participants will gain practical approaches to using data to demonstrate impact on course performance, retention, and engagement, while also developing meaningful professional development for tutors. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to secure institutional buy-in and create a high-impact program that benefits both tutors and students.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 202 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Making Faculty Evaluation Matter: Using Data to Drive Meaningful Conversations

Room 202 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Joshua Alcocer
College of the albemarle

Laura Morrison
Dept Chair, English and Communication, College of The Albemarle

Participants will learn how institutional research data can transform faculty evaluation from a compliance task into a meaningful, data-informed process. The session demonstrates how one department chair uses student evaluations and course success rates with comparative data across disciplines and the institution to inform meaningful discussions with faculty. Participants will explore AI synthesis of evaluation data to identify patterns. This supports clearer faculty feedback and guides faculty goal-setting conversations. Faculty can employ strategies to enhance student feedback and employ reflective growth strategies. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to implement transparent and actionable evaluations created from data-driven conversations.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 9 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Partnerships That Propel: Expanding Career Possibilities

Table 9 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Catalina Suarez
Student Services-Career Services

Korrie Blanchard Smith
Wake Technical Community College

Discover how Wake Tech's Career Services team collaborates across academic programs and with community partners to expand access to career exploration and job readiness courses. This session will highlight practical strategies for designing workshops that connect learners to meaningful career pathways, strengthen institutional and external partnerships, and support diverse student needs. Participants will leave with actionable ideas to enhance collaboration and advance student success.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 305A **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Pathways to Public Safety: Exploring the NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program

Room 305A | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Jennifer Fisher
NC Community Colleges

Mary Burton
North Carolina Department of Justice

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program offers a unique opportunity for individuals interested in law enforcement and criminal justice careers to receive financial support to complete their associate degree at a North Carolina Community College and professional support towards beginning a career in criminal justice. This session will provide an overview of eligibility requirements, the application process, and program expectations. Participants will learn about fellowship benefits, eligible careers, and the pathways to full-time employment with agencies across North Carolina, as well as gain valuable insight into how the program supports long-term success in North Carolina's criminal justice field.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302A **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Plot Twist: When a North Carolina Community College Changes Accreditors

Room 302A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Brian Simpson
Director of Accreditation, Central Carolina Community College - Sanford, NC

Kelly Klug

Kelly Klug
Director of Grants Development, Central Carolina Community College

Scott Byington
Central Carolina Community College

Changing institutional accreditors is rare, complex, and often misunderstood. This session explores Central Carolina Community College's ongoing transition from SACSCOC to the Higher Learning Commission, supported by a U.S. Department of Education FIPSE grant. Participants will learn how the college evaluated accreditor alignment, developed crosswalks between accreditation standards, and organized campus stakeholders to support a multi-year transition. The session will highlight lessons learned to date, implementation challenges, and strategies guiding the next phases of the work. Participants will gain practical insights and planning considerations useful for institutions that may wish to explore or evaluate an accreditor change in the future.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 304 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

From Boots to Biotech and Beyond: Scaling Career Pathways Across North Carolina

Room 304 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Jacob Key
Director of Workforce Solutions, North Carolina Biotechnology Center

Lynn Kinney
Executive Director, North Carolina For Military Employment (NC4ME)

Participants will learn how NCBiotech's MOVE Boots to Biotech program leverages its proven Catch-Coach-Connect framework to enable transitioning service members to secure meaningful life sciences careers. MOVE aligns military outreach, career coaching, workforce training, and employer engagement statewide to create direct pathways to employment in North Carolina. This session will also explore NC4ME's plans to scale the MOVE model to other key NC industries and the key role of the NC Community Colleges System is delivering relevant and affordable credentials to strengthen military-to-civilian career pathways. This collaborative approach demonstrates how proven workforce strategies, industry partnerships, and accessible training can be …

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 2 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Scaling Visiting Student Services at Wake Tech Community College

Table 2 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Corinne Bigler
Wake Technical Community College

Participants will learn how Wake Tech Community College streamlined Visiting Student prerequisite evaluation by combining transfer credit expertise with targeted workflows in an AI-powered CRM (Element 451). This session demonstrates how leveraging institutional expertise improved response times, reduced administrative burden, and enhanced the visiting student experience during peak enrollment periods. Participants will gain practical insights into aligning institutional strengths with a CRM to scale operations, improve service delivery, and preserve local decision-making while meeting growing enrollment demands.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 6 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Search, Click, Enroll: How Wake Tech Has Simplified Non-Degree Enrollment

Table 6 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Dustin Howell
Wake Tech Community College

Jessica Johnson
Dean, Compliance & Workforce CE Registration, Wake Technical Community College

Monica Gemperlein
AVP Workforce Development/Chief CE Officer, Wake Technical Community College

William Sanders
Wake Tech Community College

Discover how Wake Tech has streamlined the registration path for non-degree students using integrated tools that make finding and enrolling in Continuing Education courses fast and intuitive. This session showcases our use of Self-Service Instant Enrollment and our internal Course Management Tool (CMT), which ensures course information aligns with our CE Accountability & Integrity standards. Workforce and IT staff will demonstrate the platform and share implementation insights so that attendees can adapt ideas to improve their own students' experiences. The session will also share how we collect contact info when courses are full, and our roadmap for Element451 integration.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 201 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Start Strong, Stay Strong: Early Strategies to Improve Student Success Outcomes

Room 201 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Andrea Runnels
High School Programs Navigator, A-B Tech Community College

Anna Barrett
Coastal Carolina

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

Rita Rogers
Surry Community College

Get an inside look at the Virtual Learning Course (VLC) course BSP 4012: Pathways to College Success, designed to help basic skills learners build the habits and confidence needed to thrive in college. This session highlights the course's practical strategies for guiding students to explore career pathways aligned with their strengths and to connect with campus resources. Participants will learn ways colleges can use this course to boost persistence, engagement, and a strong sense of belonging among students in transition.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 204 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Strengthening Student Success through Community Partnerships

Room 204 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Jennifer Mock
Dean of Adult and Community Programs, Alamance Community College

Yholima Vargas Pedroza
Alamance Community College

This session explores effective internal and external partnerships that drive student success. Participants will examine collaborative models, including diverse partnership examples from Alamance Community College. Strategies will align with short-term workforce programs, community college initiatives, and university classrooms. Emphasis will be placed on actionable approaches to building sustainable partnerships that improve access, persistence, and completion. Attendees will leave with a clear purpose, practical strategies, and implementable action steps to strengthen community connections and support positive student outcomes.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 302C **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Successful Implementation of the new CCP Pathway — Career and College Ready (CRP)

Room 302C | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Aaron Mabe
State Director of Dual Enrollment, NC Community College System Office

North Carolina's new Career and College Ready (CCR) Pathway addresses several equity gaps by intentionally designing a dual enrollment model that integrates academic readiness, career exploration, and inclusive support services, while strengthening partnerships between school districts and community colleges. This panel discussion will include early adopter colleges/districts to discuss their findings and lessons learned from the new pathway. Attendees will gain strategies to expand internships and other contextual learning opportunities in collaboration with K–12 colleagues and local employer partners, emphasizing how work-based learning can reinforce academic confidence, career identity, and successful transitions beyond high school.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 205 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Supporting Success from Day One: Key Connections That Drive Student Success for Learners with Intellectual Disabilities and Beyond

Room 205 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Amy Jones
Wake Tech Community College

Julia Tennant
Wake Tech Community College

Student success begins long before the first day of college and requires intentional coordination from high school through college graduation. This session explores inclusive strategies for building strong recruitment pipelines, creating accessible and welcoming onboarding experiences, and implementing early academic, social, and wellness supports for all college students, including those with developmental/intellectual disabilities. Participants will learn how collaborative partnerships, proactive planning, and student-centered practices can promote student retention, responsibility and independence. Attendees will leave with actionable approaches that strengthen student support and enhance overall student retention.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 7 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Teaching Critical Thinking in the Age of AI Through Student-Centered Active Learning

Table 7 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Sarah Brown
College of The Albemarle

Participants will learn how student-centered active learning strengthens critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and adaptability in the age of AI. This session shares practical, classroom-tested strategies from English courses, including structured discussions, scaffolded research checkpoints, AI feedback critique, source evaluation activities, debates, and case-based analysis that require students to analyze evidence, defend ideas, and think in real time. Participants will explore how these approaches increase engagement while preserving rigor and reducing overreliance on AI. They will leave with adaptable strategies for designing learning experiences that help students build authentic, future-ready skills for success in college, careers, and a rapidly changing workforce.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 203 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

The Impact of Employment on the College Experience of Dual Enrollment Students

Room 203 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Leticia Ledezma
Career Coach, South Piedmont Community College

Marsha Thomas
South Piedmont Community College

This presentation examines how employment impacts the college experience of dual enrollment students. Participants will gain insights into the challenges and benefits these students encounter while balancing their high school and college academics alongside their job responsibilities. The session will also highlight practical strategies and approaches to better support employed dual enrollment students in achieving academic success while also maintaining their well-being.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

The Latest on Pell for Workforce Programs

Room 402 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Andrew Gardner
NC Community College System Office

Anne Bacon
NCCCSO

Brenda Burgess
NCCCSO

Brian Stevenson
NCCCSO

Monty Hickman
NCCCSO

Torry Reynolds
North Carolina Community College System Office

Come to this session to learn the latest news on Pell for Workforce Programs – federal and state requirements, which programs qualify, eligible students, and how state and college partners are preparing to offer this opportunity. Workforce and Student Services/Financial Aid staff from the system will share from their perspectives and engage the audience in discussion about how colleges across the state are thinking about and beginning to implement Pell for Workforce Programs.

Thursday, Oct 15: Table 13 **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

Success After Graduation: Building a Scalable System for Capturing and Using Career Outcome Data

Table 13 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Firooz Jahani
Wake Technical Community College

Korrie Blanchard Smith
Wake Technical Community College

Rachel Madsen
Executive Director, Institutional Effectiveness, Wake Technical Community College

What happens to students after they graduate? Join this session to discover how Wake Tech built a scalable, centralized system to collect and analyze career outcomes data for curriculum and workforce graduates. Focusing on two key outcomes — employment status and post-graduation education plans — the college streamlined survey distribution, reduced administrative burden, and improved data consistency. Participants will see how an interactive dashboard turns outcome data into actionable insights that support program improvement, leadership decision-making, and alignment with workforce needs. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and lessons learned to overcome common challenges in graduate outcomes tracking.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 301B **03:30 PM - 04:30 PM**

From Agnostic to Advocacy: Lessons Learned from Leading an 8-Week Transformation

Room 301B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Alecia Durandis
Instructional Designer, Johnston Community College

Amanda Jewett Zekanis
Director of General Education Assessment, North Carolina State University

Lisa Cooper
Associate Vice President of Instruction, Johnston Community College

Explore Johnston Community College's transition to a majority 8-week schedule through the decisions and experiences that shaped the work. Presenters will share key lessons learned from guiding this change, including challenges encountered and adjustments made along the way. The session will highlight course redesign training that supported implementation and the mid-level leadership style needed to guide faculty through an authentic, productive process. Attendees will receive resources including the college's opt-out process and rubric used to promote reflection, clarify expectations, and support decision-making.

Thursday, Oct 15: Room 402 **05:00 PM - 07:00 PM**

East Carolina University - Adult Education

Room 402 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Friday, Oct 16: Exhibit Hall **07:00 AM - 08:30 AM**

Early Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall

Friday, Oct 16: Room 202 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

The Intelligent Classroom: Practical AI Assignment Redesign

Room 202 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Lane Freeman
State Director of Online Learning, North Carolina Community College System Office

This concurrent session explores the practical, student-centered integration of Artificial Intelligence in the modern classroom. Participants will learn how to leverage structured frameworks, such as the AI Sandwich and TrAIT, to build future-ready, versatile skills. Through a guided, hands-on approach, educators will discover what effective AI integration looks like and gain the opportunity to actively redesign an existing assignment. Attendees will leave with a modernized, AI-enhanced lesson plan that aligns academic curricula with innovative instructional models, ready for immediate implementation to prepare learners for evolving career pathways.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 201 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Meeting Students Where They Are: An ENG 025 Model that Improves Readiness and Retention

Room 201 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

Logan Taylor
Wake Tech Community College

Reed Breneman
Wake Tech Community College

Rita Rogers
Surry Community College

What happens when instructors design a course while teaching it — shaping it in real time to meet students where they are? The project-based developmental course ENG 025: College English Skills was developed by two Wake Technical Community College instructors for the VLC, featuring a flexible multi-modal design (online, hybrid, and face-to-face) that supports reading, writing, and critical thinking, aligning with ENG 110 and 111. Participants will explore course strategies, assignments, and tools that foster strong writing, effective analysis, and student success habits — ready to adapt and implement at your college.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 205 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Better Jobs for Better Lives: Building a Replicable Workforce Model Through County Partnership

Room 205 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Keri Allman
Rowan Cabarrus Community College

Tricia Staggers
Lead Program Manager, Training Services, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Zackary Hubbard
Rowan Cabarrus Community College

The Better Jobs for Better Lives program at Rowan-Cabarrus didn't happen by accident — it happened through intentional partnership between the college and the Rowan County Commission. Better Jobs for Better Lives funds: career coaching, industry certifications, CDL and healthcare scholarships, virtual workshops, and community-embedded service locations. This session gives workforce development professionals an inside look at how BJBL works, what the data shows, and how a sustained county funding partnership creates the flexibility to serve residents where they are — and meet them where they want to go.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 305B **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

TAC Updates: CAA Revision & Legislative Report

Room 305B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Jenn Gardner Selby
Dean, General Education & Transfer, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

This session will be led by community college and university members of the Transfer Advisory Committee (TAC). Topics that will be discussed include recent updates to the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) and highlights from the legislative report. There will be time provided for questions and conversation.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 10 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

A Students Perspective on Transfer from Community College to University

Table 10 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Amy Frank
Director of Comm College and Military Outreach, East Carolina University

Caleb Gay
East Carolina University

This session describes the student experience of the transfer process from an AAS degree to a bachelor's degree. It focuses on the transfer from Pitt Community College's Automotive Systems Technology program to ECU's BSIT program. The session highlights how applied technical education serves as a foundation for academic and professional growth, with emphasis on the importance of efficient credit transfer and strong institutional partnerships. Common challenges faced by transfer students include academic expectations, advising processes, and institutional differences. This session also includes insights into steps administrators can take to support transfer student success.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 307 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Accreditation at a Crossroads: What NC Community Colleges Need to Know Now

Room 307 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Joanne Ceres
JCeres Consulting, LLC

North Carolina's accreditation landscape has shifted dramatically — from the 2023 law mandating accreditor rotation, to the 2025 repeal restoring institutional choice. Participants will gain a clear understanding of what the current law requires, what it no longer requires, and why that distinction matters for institutional planning. Drawing on firsthand experience navigating accreditation, the presenter will walk participants through the key steps for successful reaffirmation, critical timelines, and the strategic case for evaluating whether a different accreditor may better serve their institution's mission. Participants will leave with a practical framework for making accreditation decisions focusing on student outcomes.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302C **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Advancing Your Career: Transforming through Mentors, Coaches, Sponsors, and High-Impact Learning

Room 302C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Adam Atwell
Old Dominion University

Brandon Hensley
McDowell Technical Community College

Carrol Warren
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

James Bartlett
Associate Dean, Professor, & Executive Director- Center for Workforce Development Research & Practice, Old Dominion University
Lancelot Gooden
Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University

Michelle Bartlett
Graduate Program Director, Community College Leadership PhD at ODU, Old Dominion University

This panel explores how professionals can intentionally advance their careers through relationships and experiences that build capacity, confidence, and opportunity. Panelists will examine the distinct roles of mentors, coaches, and sponsors and discuss how each supports career development through skill-building, decision-making, visibility, and advancement. The session will also consider how high-impact learning experiences, such as mentorship, leadership programs, stretch assignments, fellowships, conference participation, and advanced degrees, can accelerate growth. Participants will leave with practical guidance for building support networks and leveraging learning opportunities for long-term career success.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 306C **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Boosting Enrollment: How Real-Time Data Drives Smarter Recruitment and Stronger Retention

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Adam Wade
Associate Vice President of Onboarding and Advising, Alamance Community College

Matthew Eckhoff
Alamance Community College

Participants will learn how Alamance Community College built a real-time, data-driven infrastructure to strengthen recruitment, advising, and retention during its first six months, replicating the CUNY ASAP model. The session demonstrates how automated Institutional Effectiveness reports refined eligibility (total credits to program-applicable credits), aligned with financial aid, improved caseload management, and protected advisor assignments. Attendees will gain practical strategies, reporting concepts, and implementation insights to reduce administrative burden, improve recruitment precision, and increase persistence. Participants will leave with a blueprint for using data as an operational engine that supports student-centered pathways and scalable program fidelity.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 304 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Building Community in Community Colleges through Course Design, Collaboration, and Intentional Professional Development

Room 304 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Chris Perry

Elizabeth McKinley
Brunswick CC

Jaime McCleod
Central Carolina Community College

Jason Moldoff
Durham Technical Community College

John Kiser
Director of Center for Teaching and Learning, Western Piedmont Community College

Kristin Redfield
co-Director, Piedmont Teaching and Lwarning Hub; Professor and Instructional Coordinator, CTE English, Forsyth Technical Community College
Marissa Cominotti

The NC Teaching and Learning Hubs help faculty to collectively lead student-centered approaches to learning across the North Carolina Community College System. Participants will explore how the NC Teaching and Learning Hubs facilitate collaborative teaching and innovative instructional models to prepare learners for success in our courses. This session highlights the importance of a common language in building faculty communities that move beyond technical LMS usage toward versatile, student-centered pedagogy. Participants will gain actionable frameworks for effective course design. Attendees will consider opportunities for cross-departmental and cross-institutional collaboration that prioritize faculty presence and high-impact learning design.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 301A **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Career and College Promise Updates

Room 301A | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Aaron Mabe
State Director of Dual Enrollment, NC Community College System Office

This annual conference session provides general updates on the Career and College Promise program as a whole. CCP has several initiatives that will be addressed: (1) the new pathway, (2) PTE Alignment Project, and (3) CTE Pathway Eligibility expansion. This session will include pertinent updates Section 14, Compliance, CU and CE processes, CPL, and credit mobility. Attendees will gain valuable insight on policies and research updates. This session will be led by Aaron Mabe and several members of the Programs and Student Success teams.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 206 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Demonstrating the new NCICU Transfer Software

Room 206 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Colleen Kinser
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU)

Hope Williams
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

Seth Kamen
North Carolina Community College System

The new NCICU Transfer software provides a centralized, online transfer site for students and advisors to use in exploring opportunities and transfer to complete a baccalaureate degree. Development of this transfer tool was funded by the Teagle, Arthur Vining Davis, ECMC, and Gates foundations and the John M. Belk Endowment with participation by community college and independent college and university representatives (funded by Lumina) to guide the development and refinement of the software. North Carolina was selected by the funders to be the first and lead state because of the historic support for transfer between NCICU and NCCCS campuses.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 305A **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Empowering the Workforce through NC LIVE and Strategic Partnerships

Room 305A | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Mary DiRisio
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Sophie Hollis
NCLIVE

NC LIVE, the statewide library consortium, provides community college students with lifelong access to essential healthcare, business, and academic databases. Because students retain access to these resources through their public libraries in North Carolina after graduation, they have a permanent workforce support system at their fingertips. This session will demonstrate how learning management system integration and strategic partnerships can transform these tools into active career catalysts. Participants will leave with a blueprint for using these databases to scale workforce development from individual student success to broader regional impact.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 3 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From AI Ambition to AI Action: Building NC's AI-Ready Community Colleges with NCCCS and Intel

Table 3

Hilmi Lahoud
NCCCS

Hugues Morin
Intel

Every community college leader is being asked the same question: “What’s our AI plan?” Students, employers, and policymakers expect colleges to move from AI awareness to AI fluency — quickly. Yet many institutions face common challenges in three key areas: curriculum, infrastructure, and capacity to scale. Join this roundtable discussion on how North Carolina’s 58 community colleges can collaboratively address these gaps. We will share how Intel’s Digital Readiness Program and AI EmpowerED initiative — a turnkey model featuring ready-to-teach AI curriculum, Lab-in-a-Box infrastructure, and train-the-trainer faculty enablement — can accelerate AI readiness across every NC college.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 303 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From Campus Life to Cabinet

Room 303 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Dr. Natasha Lipscomb
Vice President, Student Success Services, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

John "JJ" Evans
Vice President of Student Services, South Piedmont Community College

Sandra Lackner
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Isothermal Community College

Scott Johnson
Wilkes Community College

Participants will gain practical strategies for successfully transitioning from Student Life roles to Vice President of Student Services positions. Drawing on the experiences of current VPs, this session explores leadership mindset shifts, managing expanded scope and complexity, and building cross-functional influence. Participants will learn how to translate student engagement experience into institutional strategy, navigate common challenges in the first year, and align their leadership with student success and workforce outcomes. Attendees will leave with actionable insights, career planning tools, and leadership frameworks to support advancement into executive roles within the community college system.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 5 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From Caring to Completion: Strategies That Work

Table 5 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Chrissy Coley
Ferrilli

Tim Coley
Ferrilli

This interactive roundtable engages participants in exploring practical strategies to foster a campus-wide culture of caring that strengthens student persistence, engagement, and success. Guided by findings from CCCSE's Essential Conditions for Community College Student Success, the session will examine how intentional relationships, proactive outreach, and coordinated supports promote student belonging, self-efficacy, well-being, and ultimately completion. Participants will share examples from their own institutions, reflect on common challenges, and collaboratively identify high-impact practices that make support visible and accessible for all students. Attendees will leave with concrete, actionable strategies they can adapt and implement on their own campuses.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 9 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From Curiosity to Confidence: Building AI Fluency Across Campus

Table 9 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Grace McDermott
Instructional Designer, Level II, Wake Technical Community College

Katie Surber
Manager, Instructional Design and Development, Wake Technical Community College

As AI continues to reshape higher education, institutions must support faculty and staff in building the knowledge and confidence to use it effectively. At Wake Technical Community College, our Instructional Design team developed an AI professional development pathway designed to move participants from AI literacy to AI fluency and ultimately to practical implementation. This session shares how the pathway was structured to introduce foundational concepts, build confidence through hands-on exploration, and support meaningful workplace and instructional application. Attendees will leave with a scalable model for fostering responsible, informed, and effective AI adoption across campus.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302A **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From First Contact to First 15: How Forsyth Tech Redesigned Enrollment Around the Students Who Need It Most

Room 302A | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Amy Braswell
Forsyth Technical Community College

Devin Purgason
Forsyth Technical Community College

Masonne Sawyer
Forsyth Technical Community College

Most enrollment systems are built for institutions, not students. At Forsyth Tech, we changed that. Launched in January 2025, our Strategic Holistic Enrollment Management (SHEM) model was co-designed using Technology of Participation facilitation and Design Thinking, centering three student personas representing those facing the greatest barriers. The result: a Welcome Center, clarified handoffs from Recruitment through Advising and Student Care, and CRM-aligned communications that remove friction from first contact through the first 15 credits. Early indicators show URM persistence climbing, Student Care demand declining, and Onboarding engagement rising. You will leave with a practical, adaptable framework.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 12 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From Rubric to Robot: Building an AI Feedback Assistant for Writing Courses

Table 12 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Jill Lettieri
Professor, College of The Albemarle

This session demonstrates how an instructor could use a custom AI assistant to deliver fast, consistent, rubric-based feedback on student writing and responses. Participants will see a simple workflow for inputting anonymized student text, generating structured feedback, and refining responses to maintain instructor voice and academic integrity. This approach reduces grading time while increasing feedback quality and frequency, supporting stronger student revision and success. Ethical considerations, including FERPA compliance and responsible AI use, will be addressed. Attendees will leave with practical templates and strategies to build their own AI-supported feedback tool.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 8 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

From Sources to Synthesis: Leveraging NotebookLM as a Pedagogical Tool in the Community College Classroom

Table 8 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Joey Bryant
Forsyth Technical Community College

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how educators design instruction and how students engage with content. This interactive workshop examines Google's NotebookLM, a source-anchored AI tool with compelling dual-use applications for community college faculty and students. Participants will explore how faculty can streamline curriculum development, generate differentiated materials, and build interactive course notebooks, while discovering how students leverage its features for active, self-directed learning. Grounded in current pedagogical research and aligned with NC Community College System AI literacy priorities, this session delivers immediately implementable strategies applicable across disciplines and delivery modalities.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 203 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

It's Not Just a Migration: Elevating the Student Experience from Moodle to Canvas

Room 203 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Catalina Ramirez
Director of the Center for Learning and Teaching & eLearning, South Piedmont Community College

In 2022, South Piedmont migrated from Moodle to Canvas while undertaking a comprehensive course overhaul focused on strengthening quality, learner-centered usability, and accessibility. As part of the college's Student Success initiative, the LMS migration was leveraged as an opportunity to enhance the overall learning experience through a more intentional and standardized approach to course design. This effort included enhancing the quality of all division master courses that were migrated. Key elements of this effort included flexible delivery methods, improved course structure, incorporation of digital textbooks, humanization of the online environment, and a consistent course layout.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 6 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Moving Beyond Access: Institutional Strategies for Serving Latiné Students

Table 6 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Flora Calderon-Steck
Executive Director, Educational Partnerships, Forsyth Technical Community College

Participants will examine how community colleges can move beyond enrollment growth to institutional servingness that improves belonging, engagement, and completion for Latiné students. Through a brief research-informed framing and a facilitated roundtable, participants will assess current practices, identify gaps in first-year design and communication, and learn how institutional structures shape student success. The session emphasizes peer exchange and real-world strategy building rather than program showcasing. Participants will leave with practical, peer-informed approaches, stronger cross-institutional connections, and at least one actionable step to advance Hispanic-serving transformation within their college.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 306B **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Small Lessons, Big Returns: Embedding Retirement Literacy Across Pathways

Room 306B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Michael Boone
Mathematics Faculty, Gaston College

Participants will learn how to embed short, practical “working retirement” mini-lessons within their pathways. The session demonstrates how Roth IRAs and 401(k)s can be taught using simple time-value-of-money calculators across CTE and curriculum courses. Participants will gain ready-to-use examples that promote financial stability without adding curriculum overload. Attendees will leave with adaptable lesson templates that build student confidence and support long-term financial decision-making.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 402 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Student Success by Design: One College, Many Paths

Room 402 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Concurrent Session

Alan Unsworth
Dean of Instructional Support, Surry Community College

Ashley Morrison
Chief Academic Officer, Surry Community College

Melissa Recknor
Associate Dean of Student Services, Surry Community College

Student success grows when colleges are intentionally designed to support learners as they enter, pause, return, or change direction. This session shows how coordinated pathway design, including CE-to-CU alignment, a one-stop onboarding and registration model, integrated advising, and instruction tied to academic support, creates a seamless, whole-college experience. By examining aligned pathways, clear progression points, and intentional on- and off-ramps, the session demonstrates how Surry Community College built an integrated model for all learners. Participants will explore how the college uses aligned practices and data to identify key transition points and design institution-wide responses that support student success.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 2 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

Teaching Communication Asynchronously in the Age of AI: Challenges, Boundaries, and Opportunities

Table 2 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Laura Morrison
Dept Chair, English and Communication, College of The Albemarle

Participants will engage in a focused discussion on teaching communication courses asynchronously in an AI-driven environment. The session addresses ongoing challenges, including academic integrity, authentic skill development, and students' reliance on AI tools. Participants will share practical strategies for designing assignments that prioritize original thinking, oral communication, and real-time engagement. The group will evaluate current practices and identify gaps in supporting the development of authentic communication skills asynchronously. The discussion also considers how AI can enhance learning without replacing essential skills. Attendees will leave with concrete approaches, tested ideas, and clearer boundaries for using AI in communication courses.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 204 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

The Secret Sauce: A Community Approach to Student Registration

Room 204 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Laura Simmons
Director of Academic Advising, South Piedmont Community College

Louise Johnson
Student Success Coach, South Piedmont Community College

Traci Griffin
Student Success Coach, South Piedmont CC

Participants will discover how South Piedmont Community College blended guided pathways, various communication strategies, and cross-departmental collaboration into a registration experience that provided wrap-around support. Through a station-based model involving multiple Student Success areas, this session explores how early preparation — including coordinated messaging, incentives, and two months of shared resource development — maximizes both staff efficiency and student success. Participants will gain practical strategies for promoting pre-registration, promoting the value of academic planning, and building a collaborative framework. Attendees will leave with lessons learned and inspiration for creating their own recipe for pre-registration and registration.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 7 **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

What Are We Really Preparing Students For?

Table 7 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Allyson Daly
Wayne Community College

Kris Rixon
Central Carolina Community College

Kristoffer Rixon
Central Carolina Community College

What are we really preparing students for? The presenters invite faculty into a courageous conversation, imagining education that serves students as humans who thrive as well as skilled employees who work. Participants will co-create and practice a structured dialogue, drawing on evidence of what cultivates engagement, transferable skills, and ethical reasoning. This interactive session equips faculty with a tool to bring human-centered learning into their classrooms, strategies to spark meaningful conversations, and a shared sense of purpose for shaping a future where students thrive not only in their careers but also for thoughtful participation in the world.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302B **08:00 AM - 09:00 AM**

You Can’t Pour from an Empty Cup: Supporting Student Success by Addressing Educator Burnout

Room 302B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Samantha Oxendine
Dean, Counseling, Careers, & Behavioral Services, Robeson Community College

Participants will learn how educator burnout impacts advising, engagement, and student success within community colleges. The session will help participants recognize the difference between stress and burnout and identify common signs in student-facing roles. Participants will explore practical strategies to evaluate burnout, set boundaries, and build sustainable practices that support both personal well-being and effective student support. Through reflection and discussion, participants will gain tools to maintain energy, strengthen student connections, and support persistence and completion.

Friday, Oct 16: Exhibit Hall **09:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

Beverage Break in Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall

Friday, Oct 16: Table 3 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Exploring Workforce Pathways: Expanding Opportunities from the VLC

Table 3 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Michael Boone
Mathematics Faculty, Gaston College

Learn how VLC online workforce courses create affordable, efficient pathways to in-demand credentials. Preview offerings such as RLS 3700 Real Estate Prelicensing, insurance (Property, Casualty, Claims Adjusting, Life, and Accident/Health), Notary/eNotary, and specialized training such as ACC 3240: Municipal Finance, designed to meet the NC Department of State Treasurer standards for the duties of local government finance operations, and NCEdge College Director Training. Learn how colleges use these courses to help learners move from training to credential attainment and career advancement. Session participants will also learn the steps to acquiring and offering the classes at their colleges.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 201 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Addressing Community Needs: Spotlight on HEA 3121 NC Community Health Worker

Room 201 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Dr. Candace Holder
Senior Vice President / Chief Information Officer, Surry Community College

Dr. Letitia Johnson-Arnold
Director, Health and Wellness Enrollment and Compliance - Director/Instructor, Community Health Worker Program, Durham Technical Community College
Rita Rogers
Surry Community College

Session participants will learn how community colleges are playing a critical role in preparing community health workers to improve health outcomes in their communities. VLC course HEA 3121: NC Community Health Worker, based on the North Carolina Community Health Worker Association standardized core competency training, which is aligned with national standards, prepares students for certification and employment in healthcare and community-based organizations. The course addresses issues impacting communities, including chronic disease, safety, and social drivers of health. The course may be taught in multiple formats — online, hybrid, and traditional. The session will discuss the approval processes for instructors and …

Friday, Oct 16: Table 11 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

AHS Strategic Playbook: Mapping the Path — Advancing Student Outcomes through Career Pathways

Table 11 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Aja Winstead
Director of Adult High Schools & Career Pathways, Cape Fear Community College

In this session, participants will explore a structured approach to advancing student outcomes in AHS through career mapping, defined pathways, Integrated Education and Training (IETs), and community partnerships, grounded in the ICE framework (Ideas, Connections, Extensions). Participants will examine how career pathways lead to industry-recognized credentials and connect learning to future opportunities. The session highlights the Career Exploration course as the foundation, where students identify interests, explore careers, build portfolios, and engage in mock interviews to inform pathway selection. Emphasis is placed on aligning systems and partnerships to ensure students graduate prepared for enrollment, employment, or enlistment.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 402 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Aligning Education to Industry: Employer-Driven Apprenticeship Pathways

Room 402 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Linda Robinson
Registered Apprenticeship Consultant, ApprenticeshipNC

Wanda Ramos-McPherson
Regional Apprenticeship Consultant, ApprenticeshipNC

As workforce needs evolve, building affordable, efficient career pathways requires strong alignment with employer demand. Registered Apprenticeships offer an employer-led model that connects students to meaningful careers while addressing workforce needs. This session explores how employers, education, and community partners collaborate to design streamlined, cost-effective pathways. Participants will learn strategies such as credit for prior learning, stackable credentials, and articulation agreements that reduce time to completion. Real-world examples will highlight how early employer engagement drives relevance, improves student outcomes, and ensures sustainable talent pipelines.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 204 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Be Great in 8 (Week Terms) — Research to Practice

Room 204 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Emily Smail
North Carolina Community College System

Monica Clark
NC State University

At least 16 of NC's great 58 community colleges are adopting or exploring a move to 8-week (i.e., half-term, compressed, or accelerated) courses. This session focuses on research to practice and stems from a partnership with NCCCS and the Belk Center and lessons learned from the "Great in 8" community of practice hosted by the Belk Center. Participants will learn about how colleges' transformation to 8-week terms influences student success. Participants will also learn about an adaptable framework for implementing 8-week courses at scale.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 8 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Beyond the Syllabus, Human First, Learners Second

Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills

Table 8

Charlese Gibbs
Hawkes Learning

This session explores why understanding students as individuals—beyond their academic roles—is essential in higher education and how a deeper understanding of their needs, backgrounds, and interests can significantly improve learning, retention, and success. Participants will be equipped with practical strategies for assessing and connecting with students, fostering a more impactful learning environment in both synchronous and asynchronous courses.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 306C **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Beyond “The Purge”: A Smarter, Data-Driven Approach to Deregistration

Room 306C | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Carrie Pitts-Densmore
Johnston Community College

Terri Lee
Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategy, Johnston Community College

Deregistration doesn’t have to mean losing students — it can be an opportunity to re-engage and retain them. In this session, Johnston Community College shares how a strategic approach using a data warehouse, CRM, and targeted communications transformed its deregistration process. By identifying at-risk students early and delivering timely, personalized outreach, JCC shifted from reactive removals to proactive support. This data-informed strategy significantly reduced student drop-off and improved enrollment continuity. Attendees will gain practical insights into aligning teams and using technology to turn a high-risk moment into a powerful retention and student success strategy.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302A **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Clear As Mud: Making Financial Aid Easier to Understand for Your Students

Room 302A | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student… | Concurrent Session

Tyler Dew
College For North Carolina

Research shows that up to a third of students don't understand how to access financial aid and find it too confusing. In this session, participants will learn how to assess their own college's ability to share financial aid information in a way that students and families can understand. They will learn about taking a more holistic approach to how to pay for college and leave students and families with a framework that makes paying for college more manageable.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302C **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Dynamic Organizational Team Building: An Experiential Workshop to Build Successful Team Awareness

Room 302C | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Betsy DeCampo
Carteret Community College

Perry Harker
Carteret Community College

Dynamic Organizational Team Building is a facilitated, interactive training that incorporates the principles of team building with a non-academic event such as a culinary activity, skiff building, or artistic welding. A soft skills instructor, in coordination with the specific skills instructor, guides participants through an activity integrated with nuances that mimic challenges to effective workplace collaboration.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 306B **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

From Access to Acceleration: Positioning CCR as your College's Growth Engine

Room 306B | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Kelly Stegall
South Piedmont Community College

Kimberly Gregory
College of the albemarle

Nicole Worley
Richmond Community College

Shannon Stanley
Forsyth Technical Community College

Shari Brown
Director, Transitional Studies, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute

This session is designed for leaders at every level of the college, from program directors to executive teams. Participants will explore how CCR drives enrollment and FTE, feeds workforce pathways, and strengthens institutional performance. Through data-informed decision-making, cross-campus alignment strategies, and intentional pathway design, leaders will learn to champion CCR as a college-wide growth engine, not a margins program. Regardless of role or division, every leader has a stake in what CCR does for the college. Leaders will leave with concrete actions to champion from wherever they sit. CCR is the front door, not the side door of opportunity.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 304 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

From Access to Achievement: Driving Student Success Outcomes That Matter

Room 304 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

LaTonya Nixon
Beaufort County Community College

Achieving meaningful student success requires more than access — it demands intentional, coordinated strategies that support students from entry through employment. This session highlights innovative approaches across the NC Community College System that strengthen persistence, completion, transfer, and career outcomes. Participants will explore best practices in advising excellence, financial stability initiatives, and student engagement, all grounded in wraparound supports and workforce alignment. Attendees will learn how to design and scale student-centered strategies that remove barriers, promote equity, and connect students to high-demand careers and bachelor's degree pathways. Practical tools and actionable insights will be shared for immediate institutional impact.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 7 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

From Product to Process: Teaching Writing in the Age of AI

Table 7 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Round Table

Michelle Ford
College of the albemarle

Artificial Intelligence is already shaping how students approach writing, but many classrooms still focus primarily on the final essay instead of the thinking that leads to it. This session invites faculty to reconsider the writing process in an AI-informed world. Participants will explore how prompt design, revision, and reflection can become visible steps that strengthen student thinking. Through examples from community college writing courses, the presenter will share ways AI can support learning while preserving student voice. Participants will leave with practical strategies for teaching prompt literacy and helping students engage thoughtfully and responsibly with AI.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 305B **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Future-Ready Starts with Teacher-Ready: How Investments in Professional Development are Investments in Our Students

Room 305B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Daniel Loges
NC Community Colleges

Leigh Davidson
Professional Development and Distance Learning Specialist for Federal Programs, North Carolina Community College System Office

Preparing students for the future of work begins with empowering the educators who teach them. Grounded in the belief that student-centered learning starts with a teacher-first mindset, this session highlights the College & Career Readiness team's sustained, high-impact professional development system — an instructor-facilitated, asynchronous credentialing series rooted in evidence-based practices and effective teaching methodologies. The session will spotlight two future-focused offerings: the AI Boot Camp for Adult Education Professionals and the Mastering Live Online Instruction Boot Camp. Additionally, attendees will receive an overview of statewide PD opportunities. Together, these future-focused offerings equip educators to elevate learner engagement and strengthen …

Friday, Oct 16: Room 206 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Innovations in Business Technology: Programs, AI, and Industry Collaboration

Room 206 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Hilmi Lahoud
NCCCS

This session provides an overview of the current status of business technology-related programs and courses. The presentation includes newly developed AI courses, industry partnerships, best practices, and access to industry resources. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 6 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

It Takes a Village: Strengthening TRIO Pathways Through Strategic School Partnerships

Table 6 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Round Table

Ashley Mackey Whitworth Campbell
Davidson-Davie Community College

Dr. Jennifer Campbell
Director of TRIO High School Partnerships, Davidson Davie Community College

Participants will learn how building real relationships with school counselors, teachers, and staff can strengthen TRIO recruitment and early student success. This session shares practical ways to position TRIO as a trusted partner, increase student referrals, and keep students engaged through consistent communication and follow-up. Attendees will walk away with simple, effective strategies to create a strong support system that helps students successfully transition from high school to college.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 203 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Launching the Electric Vehicle Classroom

Room 203 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Concurrent Session

Carl Stutz
Wake Tech Community College

John McNary
Instructor, Grant PI, Wake Tech Community College

This session will benefit participants who are planning to develop or expand technical programs, using the addition of an EV program as an example. Wake Tech instructors will share information regarding the process to add new WCE and curriculum classes, as well as practical considerations such as facility, tools, supplies, equipment, recruiting faculty, updating training, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Instructors will share experiences with applying for grant funding, and just as importantly, navigating change requests, compliance, and reporting. Finally, the session will cover the use of an effective advisory board to align with industry.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 10 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Missed, Made, and Meaningful: Strengthening Connections for Student Success

Table 10 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Ashlyn Wilson
Associate Vice President of Advising and Onboarding, Nash Community College

Davis Smith
Dean of Academic Advising, Wake Technical Community College

Participants will explore how institutional practices can miss, make, or strengthen critical connections that influence student success and completion. This session examines who North Carolina community college students are and how consistent, equity-minded approaches can better support their diverse needs across roles and institutional contexts. Attendees will identify common gaps where connections are lost, learn strategies to build meaningful relationships, and explore opportunities to improve practices across the student experience through collaborative, cross-campus efforts. Participants will leave with practical, scalable tools to create more intentional connections that support persistence, completion, and student success across community colleges.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 303 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

NCCCS Data Flow: From College Data to System Dashboards

Room 303 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Concurrent Session

Isabel Hughes
Data Warehouse Analyst, NC Community College System

Tim Leinbach
NCCCS

This session will follow the flow of data from colleges to the NCCCS dashboards. The System Effectiveness team will demystify the data warehouse by explaining what happens to the Annual Reporting Plan and Daily Data files after submission. Participants will learn why submission deadlines are important, how the team validates data, common errors and fixes, and key points of contact. We will connect college data submissions to the dashboards they power and explain why the data files are critical for NCCCS reporting. This session is intended for college staff responsible for data submissions to the System Office.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 9 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Piloting Together: A Roundtable on ERP Modernization (Banner)

Table 9 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Beth Pulliam
Associate Vice President/CIO, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Rebecca Anderson
Vice President, Information Technology Services & CIO, Forsyth Technical Community College

Zackary Hubbard
Rowan Cabarrus Community College

Five North Carolina community colleges took the leap into Banner. Join representatives from the pilot institutions for a friendly, open roundtable where no question is too basic and no experience is off the table. We'll talk about what collaboration actually looked like, the moments that surprised us, the challenges we solved by picking up the phone and calling each other, and what we wish we'd known sooner. Whether you're an IT pro or just Banner-curious, come pull up a chair and hear it straight from the colleges living it.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 2 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Reducing Student Withdrawals in Asynchronous Online Courses: Implementing the RESILIENT Student Success Framework

Table 2 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Round Table

Dr. Nahel Awadallah
Biology Professor, Nash Community College

This workshop examined withdrawal rates in asynchronous online courses at Nash Community College. The workshop uses the Student Engagement framework developed by George Kuh to identify student, faculty, and institutional variables that contribute to student withdrawal. Participants review the RESILIENT student support modules designed to decrease withdrawal rates and engage with practical strategies intended to help all learners persist in their pursuit of success in online learning.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 301B **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

SOARing with HIPs: Elevating Student Success Through High Impact Practices

Room 301B | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Angela Smedley
Associate Dept Head/Associate Professor, Wake Technical Community College - Impact Council

Jamie Burgins

Laura Bethea-Lewis
Title IX, Student Success & Strategic Innovation, Wake Technical Community College

Richard Redding
Wake Technical Community College - Impact Council

Wendy Johnson
Wake Technical Community College - Impact Council

Discover how Wake Tech's SOAR (Scholarly Opportunities for Advancement & Research) programs elevate student experiences and strengthen academic momentum through high-impact practices. Participants will explore student-centered perspectives that amplify SOAR's collective voice, gaining firsthand insight into what makes these practices transformative and how they enrich students' journeys and career trajectories.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 5 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

What We Wish We Knew: Three Years of Lessons from Launching and Sustaining an EPP

Table 5 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Heather Craven
Fayetteville Technical Community College

Mary Olvera
NCCCS

Sue Drake, Ed.D.
Program Head: K-12 Education, Stanly Community College

Participants will learn key lessons from three years of implementing and sustaining an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) residency licensure model at two community colleges. The session will highlight practical strategies for program development, including defining roles, building partnerships, supporting candidates through testing and edTPA, and managing data collection and accountability requirements. Participants will also gain insight into addressing real-world challenges such as staffing, candidate transitions, and program adjustments. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas for launching, refining, and sustaining a residency licensure program that aligns with institutional capacity and workforce needs.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 301A **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

What Works: Improving Completion Rates in Wake Tech's Real Estate Provisional Broker Program

Room 301A | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Concurrent Session

Lora Alexander
Wake Technical Community College

Vicky Dolganiuc
Wake Technical Community College

Participants will learn how Wake Tech Workforce Development staff and instructors improved completion and pass rates in the Real Estate Provisional Broker pre-licensing courses. The session will highlight practical strategies, instructional practices, and student support approaches that can be adapted by other workforce education programs.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 205 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

When Reflection Gets Lost: Designing Feedback to Support Deeper Learning in Real Classrooms

Room 205 | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Concurrent Session

Lynn Huff
Edgecombe CC

Developing students' ability to think critically and adapt to new challenges is central to preparing them for the future of work. Reflection plays a key role in this process, yet in practice, opportunities for reflection are often limited. Drawing on research examining mentor-teacher feedback as well as classroom experience, this session explores how feedback can support, or unintentionally limit, reflective thinking. In many cases, feedback conversations shift toward stabilizing needs, leaving little space for processing and future-oriented thinking. This session will examine this tension and offer practical strategies for designing feedback and classroom interactions that balance support with reflective opportunities.

Friday, Oct 16: Table 12 **09:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Wired for Success: Creating a Broadband Fiber Curriculum to Meet Industry Needs in North Carolina

Table 12 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Round Table

Allisha Hicks
Dean, Wilson Community College

Dr. Marc David
Johnston Community College

Elizabeth Lentz
Fiber IQ Program Manager, Corning Optical Communications

Thomas Poulin
Dean, Workforce, Economic Development, & Public Safety, College of the Albemarle

Vic McCormick
Vice President of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Johnston Community College

This session will explore our motivation for developing a fiber broadband program; describe our approach to designing, promoting, funding, and delivering a fiber broadband course; and share the lessons we learned from this experience.

Friday, Oct 16: Exhibit Hall **10:30 AM - 10:45 AM**

Break

Exhibit Hall

Friday, Oct 16: Grand Ballroom **10:45 AM - 12:45 PM**

Keynote: The Great Mismatch: AI, Demographics, and the Work That Needs Doing

Grand Ballroom

Laura Ullrich
Director of Economic Research in North America at Indeed Hiring Lab, Indeed

The unemployment rate may barely move over the next year, but that doesn't mean the labor market is standing still. Beneath a calm headline number, the architecture of work is shifting fast: AI is reshuffling white-collar and technical jobs rather than hollowing them out, while an aging population pulls demand toward care, health, and the hands-on roles that are hardest to fill. Drawing on Indeed's real-time hiring data – national and right here in North Carolina – this keynote looks at where the work is moving, which jobs are being rebuilt, and why community colleges sit at the very center …

Friday, Oct 16: Room 202 **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

Are They Ready for College?: Dual Perspectives on Dual Enrollment

Room 202 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Post-Conference Session

Kimberly Singh
English Instructor, Mitchell Community College

Samantha Lane
Assistant Director of Secondary Partnerships - Harnett County, Central Carolina Community College

Participants will hear from Lead Career and College Promise Advisor Samantha Lane of Central Carolina Community College and English Instructor Kimberly Singh of Mitchell Community College, with experience teaching dual enrollment students on campus, online, and off-site at area high schools. The presenters will discuss pre-assessment measures, logistics and emerging challenges in advising, administration, and instruction, as well as ways to better support dual-enrolled students. Participants will be invited to share their experiences and/or ask questions related to dual enrollment students and best practices for advising, administration, and student support.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 304 **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

Becoming an Early Adopter: What It Takes to Lead in Access and Mobility

Room 304 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Post-Conference Session

Brian Gann
VP of Enrollment and Student Services, Wake Technical Community College

Jason Hamilton, Sr.
Senior Director Higher Ed Engagement, Member Recruitment, Common App

This session highlights how community colleges and higher ed tech partners can work together to remove barriers, expand access, and support student momentum across the learning journey. Anchored in “building on-ramps, recruitment, and early student success”, the session demonstrates how partnership can strengthen the ecosystem around students and create more navigable, equitable pathways for learners. In conjunction with a North Carolina community college, our session showcases how collaboration can deliver meaningful improvements in how students discover, enter, and move through educational opportunities. The conversation centers on shared goals, aligned strategy, and the practical realities of implementing change on campus.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 203 **01:00 PM - 02:30 PM**

Beyond the Simulation Center: Designing a Simulation Hospital for Multi-disciplinary Learning at Wake Tech

Room 203 | Strengthening Student Success Outcomes | Post-Conference Session

Angela Washington
Dean. Health Sciences, Wake Technical Community College

Mark Searls
BSA

Wake Tech and BSA developed a simulation hospital that redefines healthcare education. The facility mirrors real hospital operations, enabling nursing, imaging, and respiratory therapy students to train together in realistic scenarios. This session highlights how integrated planning, stakeholder collaboration, and design innovation aligned academic goals, community needs, and workforce readiness. Attendees will take away practical methods for planning and designing multidisciplinary learning environments that prepare students for modern healthcare practice.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 301A **01:00 PM - 01:50 PM**

BSA LifeStructures

Room 301A | Association/Special Meeting

None

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302B **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

Extreme Makeover: LMS Edition — How to Creatively Clarify Assignment Instructions for Students

Room 302B | Teaching & Learning: Building Versatile Skills | Post-Conference Session

Blessing Aghimien
Communication Instructor, Central Piedmont Community College

“Which chapters are on the test?” “How long is the essay?” “Why did I lose points on this?” “What are we supposed to do again?” If these questions sound familiar, your students are likely craving one thing: clarity. This session explores how to creatively redesign LMS content to improve communication and support equitable learning for diverse student populations. Through practical strategies, attendees will leave with ready-to-use approaches to simplify language and use digital tools to enhance instructional delivery in both online and face-to-face courses.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 201 **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

From Spreadsheets to Strategy: Using Technology, AI, and Faculty Engagement to Transform Outcomes Assessment

Room 201 | Leadership, Innovation, and Institutional Capacity | Post-Conference Session

Laura Bowen
Cleveland Community College

Leslie Queen
Cleveland Community College

Many community colleges struggle with labor-intensive assessment processes that generate documentation but fail to inform improvement. Cleveland Community College transformed its outcomes assessment process by moving from spreadsheet-based reporting to a centralized assessment system while integrating structured faculty discussions and responsible AI use. This session demonstrates how Watermark, AI-generated rubrics and checklists, Data Dives, Curriculum Chats, and Staff Snapshots streamlined documentation, reduced administrative burden, and strengthened data-informed decision-making aligned with SACSCOC Standards 8.2.a–c. Participants will explore practical strategies and practice using AI to design assessment tools that support meaningful improvement and better student outcomes.

Friday, Oct 16: Room 302C **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

It Takes Everyone: Using Element451 and Zogotech to Better Support CCP Student Success by Streamlining Communication and Accessibility to Student Data

Room 302C | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Post-Conference Session

Alma Jones
Johnston Community College

An overview of proven strategies that have increased CCP enrollment and strengthened partnerships with local school systems, charter, and private schools. This session will explore how leveraging data and SMS tools leads to more timely and effective student interventions. How systematic, scheduled information sharing has streamlined communication between the LEA and the community college, fostering collaboration and a shared responsibility for student success. Participants will learn how the CCP is using: - Element451 to better and more accurately communicate with students by focusing on the particular student's needs. - Zogotech to have up-to-date grades that are then shared with our ...

Friday, Oct 16: Room 204 **01:00 PM - 02:00 PM**

NCCC AFA Association

Room 204 | Association/Special Meeting

None

Friday, Oct 16: Room 306A **01:00 PM - 03:00 PM**

NCCCLP Alumni

Room 306A | Association/Special Meeting

None

Friday, Oct 16: Room 303 **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

Reimagining the Front Door Experience: Eliminating the Student Runaround

Room 303 | Building On-Ramps, Recruitment, and Early Student... | Post-Conference Session

Adam Wade
Associate Vice President of Onboarding and Advising, Alamance Community College

Ashley Pryer
Alamance Community College

Students often experience frustration navigating multiple offices, unclear processes, and inconsistent information when seeking help on campus. This session explores how Alamance Community College took the initiative to redesign the "front door" experience to ensure students receive accurate answers and holistic support at one of five desks — without being shuffled between departments and campuses. Participants will engage in a discussion and will learn how ACC identified common barriers that created the "student runaround" across campus services. This presentation will provide actionable steps institutions can take to streamline intake, empower frontline staff, and create a seamless, supportive first point of ...

Friday, Oct 16: Room 206 **01:00 PM - 03:30 PM**

SACA — Smart Automation Certification Alliance

Room 206 | Employer-Aligned, Affordable, and Efficient Pathw... | Post-Conference Session

Robert Alge
Technical Training Aids, Inc.

What is SACA? Who is using SACA microcredentials? What technical subjects are covered by SACA? What new subjects are coming out in 2026? Attendees will learn why certifications and credentialing are important for students and employers, and which major companies are using SACA and why. There will be time for questions. www.saca.org

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