



# COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

## TITLE II CONVOCATION

PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTE PROSPERITY



August 15-16, 2023



The Conference Center  
at GTCC



## TITLE II STAFF

**SANDRA THOMPSON**

Title II State Director, Associate Vice President of CCR

**JENIFER BEAN**

Director, CCR Assessment and HSE

**DALANDA BOND**

Education and Program Specialist

**BRANDY BROWN**

Monitoring and Reporting Specialist

**MATTHEW BROWN**

Director of IELCE

**ARBONY COOPER**

Coordinator of Compliance and Monitoring

**LEIGH DAVIDSON**

PD and Distance Learning Specialist

**SHELBRA JACKSON**

Program Coordinator

**DANIEL LOGES**

Director of Professional Development & Distance Ed

**CARLA PARNELL**

Grants Administrator

**JESSICA RIEGER**

Director for Program Operations

**MICHAEL TILDSLEY**

Coordinator of Adult Education: Corrections/AHS

**LINDSAY TIPTON**

Director of Career Pathways

**"BEYOND ANY QUESTION, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS AUDACIOUS ADVENTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA, THE MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENT AND THE MOST WORTHY OF REMEMBRANCE IN OUR HISTORY IS THE OPENING OF THE DOOR TO UNIVERSAL EDUCATION BEYOND THE HIGH SCHOOL, THE DOOR TO TOTAL EDUCATION, THE DOOR TO UNLIMITED LEARNING FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE."**

- **- DR. W. DALLAS HERRING**



# WELCOME!



It is with excitement and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2023-2024 College and Career Readiness Convocation. As I begin my first year as your State Director, the System Office is also welcoming new senior leadership. Dr. Jeff Cox assumed the role of President June 1st, and Dr. Brian Merritt assumes the role of Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer September 1st. In my conversations with our new leaders one thing is clear: both are committed to providing support that will allow you to serve the students and communities in your service area.

One of Dr. Cox's priorities is to ***“create a framework where growing workforce development needs are met state-wide for both the large-scale corporate developments and small business needs within communities”***. This goal aligns with College and Career Readiness's mission to combine adult basic skills education with jobs skills training that culminate in gainful employment.

I envision 2023-2024 being a year filled with boundless possibilities and endless opportunities for growth for our system office staff, our program directors, our instructors, and, most importantly, our students. I thank you in advance for all the great things you will accomplish this program year.

**SANDRA THOMPSON**

**State Director, Title II**

**Associate Vice President of College and Career Readiness, NCCCS**



# Title II Purpose Statement

## *Why is this work Important?*

On July 22, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which revises and reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

The North Carolina Community College System is the pass-through agency for the WIOA, Title II Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). Through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, eligible providers are funded to provide comprehensive educational services that improve adult literacy skills and knowledge for postsecondary transition. Additionally, funded Title II programs are responsible for providing training and support that will help adult learners secure employment that will lead to a family sustaining wage.

North Carolina Community College(s) and Community-Based Organization(s) are the main partners for adult education services. The following AEFLA services are requirements that create opportunities for adult learners to receive equitable access to education and employment opportunities:

Integrated Education and Training,  
Workplace Preparation Activities,  
Pre-apprenticeships and,  
Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education.

### ***Connection to Workforce Opportunities***

Title II programs are essential to the sustainability of the local economy and workforce. Thus, funded programs are responsible for training and transitioning adult learners into the workforce. To support the economic mobility of adult learners served by Title II programs, Integrated Education and Training (IET) models are intended to serve an integral portion of a career pathway. Furthermore, Title II programs are required to contextualize instruction that aligns to high demand industries. Title II programs are required to be inclusive of all types of learners which may include English Language Learners (ELL), Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities (I/DD), or other adults seeking to improve their basic skills.

## DR. BRIAN MERRITT, SENIOR VP, CAO, NCCCS



Merritt's is an experienced higher education experience at colleges and universities across the state. Prior to McDowell Tech, Merritt was vice president at Central Carolina Community College. He also served at North Carolina Central University, Louisburg College, and Appalachian State. Merritt received his bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Sciences Education and a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Appalachian State University. He also earned a Doctorate of Higher Education Administration from Walden University.

Business Administration in Business Policy at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois; a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky; and a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering and Military Studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

## DR. ANTHONY CLARKE, PRESIDENT OF GTCC

Dr. Anthony Clarke has served as the President of Guilford Technical Community College since 2019. He has nearly 20 years of experience in community colleges and has held faculty, administrative, and senior leadership roles at institutions in North Carolina and Kentucky. Prior to his role at GTCC, Dr. Clarke served as the President of Southeastern Community College. Dr. Clarke earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Behavior at Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, Ohio; a Master of



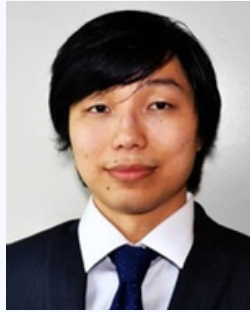
Business Administration in Business Policy at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois; a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky; and a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering and Military Studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.



## Preston Roseboro

**myFutureNC**

Preston Roseboro is a Regional Impact Manager for myFutureNC serving the Piedmont-Triad Prosperity Zone. Preston is passionate about educational access and attainment, especially for historically marginalized communities. His experience in workforce development has allowed him to help numerous individuals reach their educational, career and economic goals.



## Chi Wong

**NC Department  
of Commerce**

Chi Wong is an economist at NC Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic Analysis Division who works primarily with employment projections and data visualizations. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 2010 from Xavier University, and a Master of Arts in Applied Economics in 2014 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Previously, he worked as an Education Analyst at RTI International.



## Dr. Andrew Gardner

**NCCCSO**

Dr. Andrew Gardner is an accomplished professional with extensive expertise in economic development, higher education, and business development. In March 2023, he assumed the role of Associate Vice President for Workforce Strategies at the North Carolina Community College system, where he leads innovative initiatives to bridge the gap between education and industry demands, shaping the future of workforce development in the state.



## Anne Bacon

**NCCCSO**

Anne is a highly accomplished professional with vast experience in workforce development. With numerous years at NCCCS, she brings a deep understanding of the system's intricacies and a proven track record of success. She holds a Master of Public Policy from Duke University's Terry Sanford School of Public Policy and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia. Anne has made significant contributions to the field of workforce development. She has a track record of developing comprehensive plans, engaging stakeholders, and advocating for student success.



**Dr. Monty  
Hickman**

**NCCCSO**

Dr. Monty Hickman currently serves as the Associate Director for Enrollment Management for the North Carolina Community College System Office. This position entails providing collaborative enrollment strategies, policy support and programmatic oversight to the 58 community colleges, while also establishing external stakeholder partnerships that enhance student access and success across North Carolina.



**Steve  
Gunter**

**Mayland CC**

Steve Gunter is the Dean of Pre-College Programs for Mayland Community College, where he has managed the Title II AEFLA Program for fifteen years. He has a proud graduate of the North Carolina Community College Leadership Program and holds a M.A. Ed. in Community College Administration from Western Carolina University as well as certifications as a Certified Manager in Program Improvement and a Certified Program Planner.



**Dr. Kimberly  
Gregory**

**College of the  
Albemarle**

Kimberly Gregory is the Director of CCR at College of The Albemarle. Kimberly has worked in higher education for over fourteen years. Kimberly serves at the REACH (Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Education) Team Lead, Rural Leaders, Unity Task Force, and the Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee as well as other community work with the local Workforce Development Board and Leadership Committee and the B3 Coffee Board of Directors.



**April  
King  
Craven  
Literacy**

April King is the Executive Director of Craven Literacy Council (CLC) in New Bern, NC. She has been the ED since 2018, and worked in various roles at CLC since 2011. She graduated from Meredith College and worked previously as a Lab Supervisor in the medical technology field. She has completed the Adult Education Core Credential, the Proliteracy Tutor Trainer Certification, Motherread/Fatheread certification, in addition to numerous professional development adult literacy and leadership trainings.



## Joy Buff

**Western  
Piedmont CC**

Joy Buff is the Director of CCR at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, Burke County. Joy has been working in adult education since 1998. In her current role, Joy leads the AHS Diploma program, HSE testing, and ESL program. She is also a certified HSE Examiner. Joy holds a Bachelors in Chemistry and Sport Science from UNC-CH a Masters in Higher Education and Education Specialist degree in Higher Education from ASU.



## Alice Denson

**Orange County  
Literacy**

Alice joined OCLC as Executive Director in 2004. Her original vision of what she'd be doing at OCLC may have been a bit celestial, but the reality she walked into is far richer and far more fulfilling than she could have imagined. While her job doesn't actually involve reading books, she finds herself surrounded by OCLC students, volunteer tutors, board members and staff for whom the power of literacy and of reading is truly inspirational.



## Claudia Farnandez

**Central  
Carolina CC**

Claudia Lemus Farnandez is the Dean of Career & Academic Engagement at Central Carolina Community College. In her role, she provides leadership to the CCR Department and the Developmental Studies department. Before joining Central Carolina Community College in May 2022, Farnandez served as the HSE State Administrator at the NCCCS. Her career as educator started at CPCC in Charlotte where she worked for 17 years. Dean Farnandez holds an MS from Fort Hays State University in Instructional Technology



## Zeledith Blakely Guilford Tech CC

Zeledith Blakely, also known as Zee, first came to GTCC in 2016 as the Associate Dean of Adult Education. Prior to arriving at GTCC, she served as the Director of Basic Skills Programs at Craven Community College for 9 years. Currently, Zee serves as the Dean of Adult Education overseeing English as a Second Language (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary Education (ASE), and Transitions programs. Zee has a master's degree in education from Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina.





**Karen  
Hill**  
**Lenoir CC**

Karen Hill is the Director of Transitional and Career Studies at Lenoir Community College. This position is responsible for Title II programs as well as HRD. When she left teaching HSE in the prisons she held many different positions across the college. Returning to CCR in January of 2022 as the Director. Karen holds an M .A. Ed. in Middle School Education and an Ed. S. in Adult Education.



**Shari  
Brown**  
**Caldwell CC  
& TI**

Shari Brown is the Director of Transitional Studies at CCCTI. Before becoming the director in February 2022, she had twenty-nine years of instruction and coordination experience in family literacy, high school equivalency, and English Language Acquisition. She holds a Master's degree in Higher Education, Developmental Studies and Counseling from Appalachian State University.



**Lizzie  
Ellis-Furlong**  
**Durham  
Literacy**

Lizzie Ellis-Furlong returned to the Durham Literacy Center as the Executive Director in 2014, after previously serving as the DLC's ABE Coordinator and Managing Director from 2001-2006. Native to NC, Lizzie holds a master's degree in social work from UNC-CH and a bachelor's degree from Earlham College. She is a seasoned leader with extensive experience in adult literacy, starting her career as an English teacher abroad in the Slovak Republic, then at Durham Tech and Wake Tech.



**Penny  
Wacaster**  
**McDowell  
Technical CC**

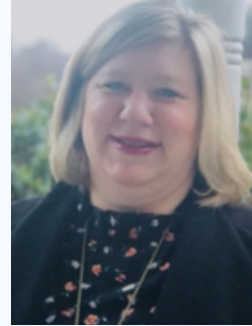
Penny Wacaster is an employee of McDowell Technical CC where she serves as the Director of CCR and HRD.. Penny also serves as the NCCCS HSE representative for MPHSE. Penny has been in adult education for almost 4 years and started at MTCC as an ABE part-time instructor. Penny holds a BS in Chemistry and Biology from Appalachian State University. After working as a chemist for many years, Penny has finally found her people!



Penelope  
Radcliffe

Beaufort County  
CC

Penelope Radcliffe serves as the Director of College and Career Readiness at Beaufort County Community College. Penelope has worked with Adult Ed for twenty-six years and been with Beaufort County Community College 23 years. Penelope is a graduate of North Carolina Wesleyan University with a BA in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is an Alumni of Beaufort County Community College where she received her AAS in Medical Technology.



Jennifer  
Mock

Alamance  
CC

Jennifer Mock has nineteen years experience in adult education in various roles at Alamance Community College. She is currently the Director of Academic and Career Readiness. Before coming to the community college setting, Jennifer worked in the local school system as a reading recovery specialist and as an admissions supervisor at Elon University. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Elon University and her masters degree in Higher Education with a concentration in Leadership from ASU.

# THANK YOU!

