

SYNERGY 2017

Hilton Charlotte University Place / Charlotte, NC



SPRING into STEM!

SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
MATH



NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
A Center for the Advancement of Afterschool and Expanded Learning Opportunities



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

APRIL 3-5



NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

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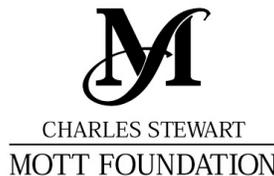
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STEM Next



Welcome to **SYNERGY 2017**



Dear Synergy Attendees:

On behalf of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, welcome to Charlotte, NC and to the 13th annual Synergy Conference!

More than a decade ago, the Public School Forum established the NC Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) because we understood the valuable role out of school time plays in a child's overall education. We know this is often the time when children get to experience new things and develop new skills in an informal setting without a high-stakes test attached. I know from my own daughter's experience, she may have learned science concepts in school, but she learned to love science by participating in various afterschool and summer programs.

I am confident you will enjoy this conference and will take advantage of the chance to network and meet new colleagues, as well as to get reacquainted with old friends. I hope this conference serves as a resource to enhance the important work you do every day by providing expanded learning opportunities for students across our state.

Warmest regards,



Keith Poston,
President and Executive Director
Public School Forum of North Carolina

Keith Poston was named President and Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina in January 2014. He has more than 25 years of public relations, strategic philanthropy, corporate communications and crisis management experience. His diverse background includes work with corporate, agency, political and non-profit organizations. Keith is a Leadership North Carolina graduate and received the "40 under 40" Leadership Award in 2004 from the Triangle Business Journal. Keith received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Welcome to SYNERGY 2017



Since 1986, the **Public School Forum of North Carolina** has been an indispensable and nonpartisan champion of better schools and the most trusted source in the state for research and analysis on vital education issues. The Public School Forum of North Carolina brings together leaders from business, education and government to study education issues, develop ideas, seek consensus and ultimately inform and shape education policy through research, policy work, innovative programs, advocacy and continuing education for educators and policymakers.

Follow the Public School Forum of North Carolina on Twitter **@theNCForum** and visit **ncforum.org** for more information.



The North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs (NC CAP) is a statewide after-school and expanded learning network dedicated to increasing access to high-quality after-school and expanded learning programs for all children and youth in North Carolina, helping them to succeed in and out of school. Our work includes research and best practices in the afterschool and expanded learning environment; convening key stakeholders (national, state, and local); advocating for policies to support afterschool and expanded learning; and professional development and technical support for afterschool programs.

Follow us on **Twitter @NCAfterschool** and visit our website at **www.nccap.net**.

2017 SYNERGY CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Nametags: Please wear your nametag each day. This is your entrance ticket for meals and workshops. Please visit the registration desk if you lose your nametag.

Meals: We do our best in choosing a universal selection that will please the majority of conference participants. To receive a vegetarian or gluten free meal, you must have pre-registered for it. Please provide your vegetarian/gluten free card (found with your nametag materials) to your table server at the beginning of meals.

Vendors / Exhibits: Professional/Commercial exhibits are available on the main corridor of our conference space.

Lost & Found: Please visit the Registration area for any lost items.

Workshop Changes: Because of circumstances beyond our control, there may be a time where a workshop is cancelled. Changes will be posted at the location where the workshop was to be held. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Workshop Evaluation Forms: Please take the time at the end of each workshop to fill out an evaluation form. Your comments help us provide quality sessions at future conferences. The presenter will distribute and collect evaluation forms at the end of each workshop. An overall conference evaluation will be distributed during the last session. **At the end of conference**, bring your conference evaluation to the registration desk in order to receive a certification of attendance.

Photo Release: NC CAP will, from time to time, use photographs of conference participants in its promotional materials. By virtue of your attendance at the conference, NC CAP reserves the right to use your likeness in such materials.

Agenda at-a-Glance

* See STRAND DESCRIPTIONS listed on page 5.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

TIME	SESSION TITLE	STRAND *	
9:00am–10:00am	21st CCLC Semi-Annual Meeting Registration		Midway
10:00am–1:00pm	NCDPI 21st Century Community Learning Centers Semi-Annual Meeting <i>(only for current 21st CCLC programs)</i>		Lakeshore Ballroom
12:00pm–2:00pm	Conference Registration		Midway
2:00pm–3:30pm	Welcome and Opening Session <i>Keynote Speaker: Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts</i>		University Ballroom
3:45pm–5:00pm	WORKSHOP SESSION A		
	25 TOOLS IN 90 MINUTES: Free Rockstar Tools to Raise Your Game!	Front Line Practitioners	Glenwaters
	Bullying Prevention in Out of School: What I Need to Know and Do	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 1
	Growing After School in a Rural Community	Community Collaboration	Lakeshore 2
	Impacting Students Through Tennis	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 4
	LEGOS and Coding and Kids, Oh my!	STEM	Lakeview
	STEMulate Your Students for Success	STEM	Walden
	Walk, Listen, and Learn with The Walking Classroom	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 3
5:30pm–8:00pm	Dinner and Healthy Living Keynote/HOST Recognition Program Launch <i>Keynote Speakers: Dr. Justin Moore and Sherée Vodicka</i>		University Ballroom

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

8:30am–9:00am	Coffee, Bagels & Networking		Lakeshore Ballroom Foyer
9:00am–10:15am	WORKSHOP SESSION B		
	A Partnership That Benefits Students and Teachers	Community Collaboration	Lakeview
	Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Healthy Out of School Time	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 1
	SciTech STEM After School Program	Community Collaboration, STEM	Lakeshore 2
	Scores to Scholarships: Get Your Students Ready!	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 4
	Strong Foundations through Self-Awareness and Character Education	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 3
	Wrangling Cats & Harnessing Lightning: Strategic Planning Comes Alive!	Program Leadership	Glenwaters
10:30am–11:45am	WORKSHOP SESSION C		
	A Makerspace Toolbox: Getting Started & Learning More about Inquiry-Based STEM Labs	STEM	Lakeview
	Best Practices for Operations and Fiscal Management	Program Leadership	Glenwaters
	Community Engagement Through Collective Action	Community Collaboration	Lakeshore 2
	Exploring Food, Culture and Reading in After School Programs	Healthy Living, Front Line Practitioners	Lakeshore 1
	Making Them Visible: Identifying, Supporting, and Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents	Advocacy	Lakeshore 4
	Project-Based Learning: Adding Value to Content Standards	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 3
12:00pm–2:00pm	Lunch and STEM Keynote <i>Keynote Speaker: Sandy Marshall</i>		University Ballroom

Agenda at-a-Glance

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017, *continued*

2:15pm – 3:30pm	WORKSHOP SESSION D		
	Closing Behavior Gaps Through School Climate and Social and Emotional Learning	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 2
	CSI – Creative Science Investigations	STEM	Lakeview
	Globe-Trotters - Engaging our Future Leaders to Reach their Potential Best!	Community Collaboration	Lakeshore 3
	NC Aquariums: Bring Aquatic Science to You!	Community Collaboration	Lakeshore 4
	Playing with Fire: Conflict, Communication and Your True Colors of Leadership!	Program Leadership	Glenwaters
	Understanding Healthy Living	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 1
3:45pm – 5:00pm	WORKSHOP SESSION E		
	Creating and Sustaining Afterschool Programs Through Community Partnership and Strong Collaboration	Community Collaboration	Lakeshore 2
	Fit-Tastic Children's Programming: Making Movement Count	Healthy Living, Front Line Practitioners	Lakeview
	Hands-On Science with Classroom Critters	STEM	Lakeshore 4
	Impacting Students Through Tennis	Healthy Living	Glenwaters
	Nuts and Bolts of Effective Leadership	Program Leadership	Lakeshore 3
	Town Hall: Best Practices in After School	Front Line Practitioners	Lakeshore 1

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017

8:30am–9:00am	Coffee, Muffins & Networking		Lakeshore Ballroom Foyer
9:00am–10:15am	WORKSHOP SESSION F		
	Addressing Behavioral/Mental Health in Out-of-School Settings	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 1
	Afterschool Programs and the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Is CACFP Right for Me?	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 2
	Division of Child Development and Early Education New Initiatives Impacting School-Age Care!	Program Leadership	Lakeshore 3
	Engage & Empower Girls with STEM – It's the Beauty of Science	STEM	Lakeshore 4
	Mentoring 101	Closing Gaps	Lakeview
	Way Beyond Icebreakers: Interactive Tools to Engage Our Young People!	Front Line Practitioners	Glenwaters
10:30am–11:45am	WORKSHOP SESSION G		
	"A Weight Room for the Brain" Improving Academic Success	Closing Gaps	Lakeshore 4
	Division of Child Development and Early Education New Initiatives Impacting School-Age Care!	Program Leadership	Lakeshore 3
	GEMS STEAM Club	Reading, Literacy, & Writing	Lakeshore 2
	Providing Healthy Meals Through the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program	Healthy Living	Lakeshore 1
	Rockstar Readiness: Employment Skills in Action!	Front Line Practitioners	Glenwaters
	There's an App for That?	STEM	Lakeview
11:45am–12:00pm	Closing Session		University Ballroom
12:00pm–1:00pm	Training Credit Distribution		Midway 2

2017 SYNERGY CONFERENCE STRANDS



STEM – Best practices in implementing STEM curriculum into afterschool programs; successful local, state, and national models; math literacy; apprenticeships and working with older youth; career development; science fairs; museum partnerships.



Program Leadership – Presentations on effective leadership, data management systems; fundraising/grant-writing; licensure; inspiring and retaining high quality staff; facility management; volunteer recruitment.



Front Line Practitioners – Presentations on developing skills necessary for working directly with children and youth; learning new activities and lesson plans to implement in daily operations.



Healthy Living – Nutrition education; health; physical activity; purposeful recreation; social and emotional development; recycling; environmental education; preventing bullying and violence; inclusion.



Community Collaboration – Developing/sustaining school-community partnerships; cultivating cross-sector collaboration with the health, education, and juvenile justice sectors; recruiting local business and corporate partners; rural and urban program models; engaging the faith-based community; working with local foundations and United Ways.



Closing Gaps – Best practices associated with improving academic performance, school attendance, and decreasing misconduct and limiting behaviors exhibited by minority and low-socio-economic students in afterschool and extended learning programs.



Advocacy – Engaging local and state elected officials; community outreach; developing skills as an afterschool spokesperson; parent/family engagement; using social media; leadership development.



Reading, Literacy, and Writing – Presentations on planning, implementing, and sustaining reading, literacy, or writing programming, family literacy programs.



SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Monday, April 3, 2017

Welcome and Opening Session • 2:00pm – 3:30pm • University Ballroom

Welcome: **Dr. Mike Priddy**, *Chairman, Public School Forum of North Carolina*



Michael D. Priddy is a lifelong public school educator and advocate. A native North Carolinian, he was born in Winston-Salem and graduated from Richard J. Reynolds High School. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he received his undergraduate degree in American History and his Masters and Doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision.

Dr. Priddy traces his passions for social justice and equitable educational opportunities to his family and to his public schooling experiences. His professional work spans seven NC school districts and three UNC universities over 40 years. Most recently, he has consulted school districts in the area of educational technology funding, and is currently collaborating on a character education program for middle school youth. One of Dr. Priddy's many significant accomplishments was the establishment of the Health Sciences Academy in 2002 for ninth through twelfth grades in the high schools of Pitt County. The program is a partnership of the hospital, medical school, community college, the chamber of commerce, and the school district.

A few of Dr. Priddy's recognitions and honors are the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the NAACP Community Service Award, the Healthy Schools Superintendent of the Year, an honorary Life Membership in the NC PTA, and the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America. He has also authored and co-authored numerous articles and publications. Dr. Priddy is currently serving as Chairman of the Public School Forum of North Carolina. The Forum is a think tank dedicated to research and policy related to K-12 education; its work began in 1985 and is credited with the policy origins for many significant and well-known legislative accomplishments over the past 30 years. He also serves as Chairman of the ECU Joyner Library Advancement Council, and the Chair-Elect of the UNC School of Education Alumni Council.



Facilitator: **James Ford**, *Interim Director, NC Center for Afterschool Programs*



James E. Ford served as the 2014-15 North Carolina Teacher of the Year prior to joining the Public School Forum in 2015. Ford taught World History & Sociology at Garinger High School in Charlotte, NC starting in 2010. He began his teaching career in Rockford Public Schools in Rockford, Illinois. Ford earned a bachelor of science in mass communication from Illinois State University in 2003 and a master's degree in teaching from Rockford University in 2009. Ford recently completed his certification in educational leadership from Wingate University.

Before deciding to become a teacher, Ford's early career cemented his connection to children and youth. He worked as a truancy intervention specialist in high schools and director of a teen center that provided educational and after-school activities for youth at risk of dropping out of school. He considers his work to be his "life-calling" and has dedicated himself to serving his community through education. Ford is a husband, father, educator, activist, minister and musical artist. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In addition to 2014-15 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Ford was recognized as Charlotte Magazine's Charlottean of the Year, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators' Teacher of the Year.



Keynote Speaker: Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts



Jennifer Watson Roberts was raised in Charlotte, and now she and her husband, Manley, are also raising their two children in Charlotte as well. A star athlete, Jennifer graduated from East Mecklenburg High School, and went on to graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship. She was also a well-known volleyball player with a mean spike at the net. She has carried that love of team sports and good sportsmanship with her to this day, sponsoring her annual Jennifer Roberts Volleyball Festival that benefits local women’s groups.

After her undergraduate degree, Jennifer went on to earn two Masters Degrees in international affairs from Johns Hopkins University and from the University of Toronto. Jennifer worked as a diplomat for four years with the US Department of State, serving in the Dominican Republic as a consular officer and then as a political officer on the Mexico Desk before returning to Charlotte.

During her years in Charlotte, Roberts has been Director of the Mayor’s International Cabinet, a lending officer in International Corporate Banking at First Union, and executive director of the Charlotte World Affairs Council. Jennifer is proud of what she was able to accomplish in Charlotte as Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Commission: during the worst economic times of recent history she helped create 5000 new jobs, balance the county budget and preserve our AAA credit rating while continuing to provide the quality of services that Charlotte families have come to expect.

As mayor of Charlotte Jennifer continues to use her experience as a business leader and community advocate to fight every day to create good jobs, strengthen our schools and expand opportunities so that all Charlotte families can succeed. Roberts has won many community awards and serves on numerous boards and advisory groups in the region, including ArtsTeach, the Centralina Council of Governments, the Charlotte Chamber, the Girls Scouts Hornets Nest Council, Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful, and the Women’s Commission. She is a proud recipient of the Maya Angelou Women Who Lead award.

During her personal time Jennifer is an incredibly active volunteer on children’s issues in general, alleviating poverty and homelessness, and environmental protection. When not working, Jennifer can most frequently be found hiking with her husband, Manley, her daughter, Montana, and her son, Manley, Jr.



SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Monday, April 3, 2017

Workshop Session A • 3:45pm – 5:00pm

25 Tools in 90 Minutes: Free Rockstar Tools to Raise Your Game!



Strand: Front Line Practitioners

Room: Glenwaters

Participants will be exposed to a lightning round of proven tools and strategies to raise their after school game. We'll cover the BEST of technology, program design, media, funding and even parent/custodial communication methods. Participants will leave with a handout of FREE resources, and NEW ideas to take back to their community. By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to identify five new technology tools that they can use to increase communication with participants and custodians; identify five new program design methods, including the 13 minute rule, social branding, and a 6 part program formula; AND identify five new, material free activities that can enhance their after school program in 30 minute bursts.

Presenter: Eric Rowles, *Leading to Change*

Co-Presenter: Fred Baker, *Leading to Change*

Bullying Prevention in Out of School: What I Need to Know and Do



Strand: Healthy Living

Room: Lakeshore 1

Effective bullying prevention education includes educating children, staff, and parents. In this session, participants will develop an understanding of how to impact childhood bullying during out-of-school time. Participants will receive staff training materials, parent education materials, and be engaged in student level activities in order to model, teach, and assess the healthy life skills that reduce childhood bullying.

Presenter: Johanna Chase, *NC Department of Public Instruction*

Growing After School in a Rural Community



Strand: Community Collaboration

Room: Lakeshore 2

Participants will learn how to create an After-School Program in a rural community. 1st Explorers has partnered with local community agencies since its beginning to provide students with quality experiences. Our programs are staffed by college students from a local university. We partner with the local school system to provide meals during the summer months, and a partnership with NC Active Routes has been formed

to education children on bicycle and pedestrian safety. We partner with the local arts council to teach art techniques, partner with Safe Kids / Health Department, as well as many other types of training. 1st Explorers seeks to create a neighborhood-like sense of community in area where neighborhoods don't exist.

Presenter: Kelly Brown, *1st Explorers at First Baptist Church of Sylva*

Impacting Students Through Tennis



Strand: Healthy Living

Room: Lakeshore 4

Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the steps required to add tennis to their program. The tennis program is very flexible, as it can work with all ages and no tennis courts are required. Attendees will also learn about the variety of educational curriculums that can run alongside their tennis program. The presentation will conclude with insights from programs who have successfully added tennis in the after school realm.

Presenter: Andrew Waldrop, *North Carolina Tennis Foundation*

Co-Presenter: Phil Kuntz, *North Carolina Tennis Foundation*

LEGOS and Coding and Kids, Oh my!



Strand: STEM

Room: Lakeview

Children love LEGOs! And knowing how to code is becoming more and more essential for the next generation of innovators, do-ers and leaders. Put LEGOs and coding together and you have the FIRST LEGO League Jr. program, an innovative and engaging project that makes after-school time popular and fun. Participants will have a chance to build and code with the LEGO WeDo 2.0 kit. In addition, we will learn more about how this kit is used in the FIRST LEGO League Jr. program while walking-through the curriculum and the engineering notebook used by students in grades K-4. This is a hands-on and fast-paced workshop for anyone who works with elementary school children.

Presenter: Marie Hopper, *FIRST North Carolina*

Co-Presenter: Julia Wagner, *FIRST North Carolina*

STEMulate Your Students for Success



Strand: STEM
Room: Walden

This presentation will be centered around STEM and how to make it interesting and fun for students. During the session, participants will be engaged in hands-on activities that they can take back to their afterschool programs and easily implement! The presenter will also provide handouts that programs can take home and use in their programs.

Presenter: Shereene Hill-Veal, Comprehensive Training NC

Walk, Listen, and Learn with The Walking Classroom



Strand: Closing Gaps
Room: Lakeshore 3

During the workshop participants will learn:

- The importance of incorporating regular physical activity into the school day
- How to help students build healthy, lifelong habits
- The importance of addressing students' different learning styles
- How to incorporate The Walking Classroom as a regular part of the afterschool program to meet the above goals

Presenter: Nicole Hunter, The Walking Classroom Institute

Dinner and Healthy Living Keynote/HOST Recognition Program Launch 5:30pm – 8:00pm • University Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Justin Moore, Associate Professor, Wake Forest School of Medicine**



Dr. Justin Moore is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Family & Community Medicine and Epidemiology & Prevention at the Wake Forest School of Medicine of the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. He conducts community-engaged research focused on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based strategies for the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity in youth from underserved communities. He is the Associate Editor for the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice and is the Vice-chair of the editorial board of the American Journal of

Public Health. Dr. Moore is an active member of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the American Public Health Association (APHA). He was named a fellow in the ACSM in 2010 and was a founding member of the Physical Activity Section of the APHA. He later served as the chair of the Physical Activity Section and as the Section's representative on the APHA Governing Council. He has published more than 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has received funding for his research from the National Institutes of Health, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the de Beaumont Foundation, among others.

Dr. Moore is a graduate of Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (BS), the University of Mississippi (MS), and the University of Texas at Austin (PhD). He also holds a certificate of competencies in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Keynote Speaker: **Sherée Vodicka, Executive Director, NC Alliance of YMCAs**



Sherée Thaxton Vodicka is the Executive Director of the NC Alliance of YMCAs, a statewide coalition comprised of all 26 YMCA Associations in North Carolina. In this role, Vodicka manages the strategic direction, communication, and advocacy work of the state's Alliance in support of the Y's Mission and Cause. Prior to her work with the NC Alliance of YMCAs, Vodicka served as the Director of Advocates for Health in Action, a Wake County-based healthy weight collaborative. Prior to that, Vodicka served eight years managing integrated marketing communications for the N.C. Division of Public Health's Physical

Activity and Nutrition Branch around healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weight for all North Carolinians. Vodicka received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics with honors from the University of Kentucky, and a Master of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Park Fellow. She is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist, and holds a Nonprofit Management Certificate from Duke University. She is a member of the NC Professional Lobbyist Association, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, Doug.

SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Coffee, Bagels & Networking • 8:30am–9:00am • Lakeshore Ballroom Foyer

Workshop Session B • 9:00am – 10:15am

A Partnership That Benefits Students and Teachers



Strand: Community Collaboration
Room: Lakeview

Citizen Schools brings volunteers from the community into the school building to teach apprenticeships to middle school students. They have partnered with Discovery Place Education Studio to teach a 3D printing apprenticeship at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School. This program not only helps students learn the technology but also provides an opportunity for teachers and staff to have more hands-on experience with the technology as well.

In this session leaders from both Citizen Schools and Discovery Place Education Studio will discuss their partnership, the lessons they learned and offer suggestions for participants seeking to establish their own partnerships.

Presenter: Vanessa Benton, Citizen Schools
Co-Presenter: Kellen Nixon, Discovery Place Education Studio

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Healthy Out of School Time



Strand: Healthy Living
Room: Lakeshore 1

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the benefits of an emphasis on health in out of school time for their program participants;
- 2) Compare and contrast the HOST Standards to the current practices in their programs; and
- 3) Describe the HOST Recognition Program process and where to go to participate

Presenter: Sherée Vodicka, NC Alliance of YMCAs

SciTech STEM After-School Program



Strand: Community Collaboration, STEM
Room: Lakeshore 2

Participants will explore how to build a year-round community-based partnership with museums, hospitals, and universities, and local recreation centers. Presenters will demonstrate how technology is used in an afterschool program at city parks and recreation centers to generate interest in STEM in school.

Participants will walk away with activities in hand as well as ideas about ways to build these partnerships.

Presenter: Kim Jones, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter/WSSU
Co-Presenter: Joann Thomas, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter/WSSU

Scores to Scholarships: Get Your Students Ready!



Strand: Closing Gaps
Room: Lakeshore 4

Want to develop an SAT/ACT Prep program for your students but not sure where to begin? Would you like to enhance your college advising programming? This session is for you. Did you know that (1) competitive SAT/ACT scores can help students qualify for college scholarships? (2) Even though the SAT has changed, the SAT & ACT have similar kinds of questions? (3) Teachers can help students get ready for the required NC ACT for juniors daily in the classroom by making slight adjustments in lesson delivery? We'll cover the core differences between the ACT/SAT, take a close look at the format/content of test questions, & discuss best practices for not only higher scores but also academic improvement. Attendees will engage with free college preparation tools online and learn how to utilize these tools as part of an effective preparation program; examine SAT and ACT question formats; role-play as student test-takers; and participate in ongoing Q&A.

Presenter: Sheba Brown, A+ Test Prep & Academic Services
Co-Presenter: Vincent Brown, A+ Test Prep & Academic Services

Strong Foundations through Self-Awareness and Character Education



Strand: Healthy Living
Room: Lakeshore 3

This session will explore the topics of internet responsibility and character education as well as character education in regards to NC Law. Ideas will be provided for working with truancy issues and creating an afterschool atmosphere that embraces the whole child concept through healthy self-awareness using the framework from the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education.

Presenter: Deborah Prickett, NC Department of Public Instruction

Wrangling Cats & Harnessing Lightning: Strategic Planning Comes Alive!



Strand: Program Leadership
Room: Glenwaters

Is your staff inspired... or in pain? Staff development and board training is often viewed as a painful process. However, with an updated view on key strategies and techniques, this

illuminating process can be tailored to provide QUICK, FAST FOCUSED progress within your organization. Don't miss this showcase of multiple strategies, techniques, and examples of how (and why) board and staff development can be the SPARK to keep the organization healthy and moving forward.

Presenter: Eric Rowles, *Leading to Change*
Co-Presenter: Fred Baker, *Leading to Change*

Workshop Session C • 10:30am – 11:45am

A Makerspace Toolbox: Getting Started and Learning More About Inquiry-Based STEM Labs



Strand: STEM
Room: Lakeview

You have to prepare your students to take on a changing world. As part of their curriculum they need to know how to create, construct, innovate, imagine – so they can explore understand and shape their environment. Getting ready to tackle this challenge isn't an easy task.

Join us for a nuts and bolts maker toolbox session. We'll engage in active learning to incorporate student centered and inquiry based thinking into your STEM maker space. In this discussion we will help you to create vision and purpose planning that considers space option. We can help you build or frame agreements and norms for use. You will be provided the opportunity to see a Makerspace STEM Lab in action and to explore the tools to get started: coding, robotics, circuitry, drones, micro-controllers, AR and invention kits. And finally, this session can help you tailor your program for after school, camps, and intersession or in school learning.

Presenter: Susan Wells, *Techterra Education*

financial reporting. These methods can be applied by LEA and non-LEA program directors for new and existing programs, site coordinators, fiscal managers and all personnel who are responsible for managing 21st CCLC grants.

The topics being covered during this session are:

- A project based approach to managing afterschool programs
- Applying Project Management principals
- Digital transformation - Staff recruitment, student enrollment, budget/expense/time/records management and invoicing
- Pro-active self-monitoring
- Reporting and expense forecasting

Presenter: Dipak Patel, *Salient Learning, 21st Century Community Learning Center*

Best Practices for Operations and Fiscal Management



Strand: Program Leadership
Room: Glenwaters

21st CCLC Program directors should be focused on continuous program improvement to achieve program goals instead of being preoccupied with data management and compliance. With limited administrative resources available within 21st CCLC grant, directors time should be split 80/20 between working towards achieving program goals and fiscal management. In order to achieve this, we must implement data driven program management processes that allow program directors to automate tasks related to measuring resource utilization, budget expense management and

Community Engagement Through Collective Action



Strand: Community Collaboration
Room: Lakeshore 2

Collective Action has certainly been a hot topic in the last few years. Many communities have engaged in collective action efforts around a variety of topics. The focus is typically on the attention given to a particular community "problem". In this workshop, however, the focus will be on the positive implications, if not necessity, of participating in collection action efforts as a community engagement strategy from the perspective of the organization. Attendees will focus on the 5 elements of collective action and use them as tools to further their organizational mission and strategic plan. This workshop is particularly designed for organizational leaders, directors and board members, to support the argument that the time and resources spent on community engagement is foundational to the success of an organization's direct services.

Presenter: Betsey McFarland, *Wade Edwards Foundation (WELL)*

Exploring Food, Culture and Reading in After-School Programs



Strand: Healthy Living, Front Line Practitioners

Room: Lakeshore 1

Food, Culture and Reading is a hands-on nutrition education 4-H program. This workshop will include lessons on the following topics: an introduction to MyPlate, a literature-based look at cultures and foods found around the world, cooking activities to better understand healthy living and other cultures, and physical activities to augment healthy living among after school children and families.

The learning objectives of Food, Culture and Reading are to give young people the opportunity to: learn basic facts about healthy living and eating a healthy diet, gain knowledge about different cultures through reading and exploring international foods and stimulate an interest in improving their daily food choices.

Participants in this workshop will experience 4-H foods and nutrition curricula using the experiential learning model and hands-on experiences. Participants will also look at how to incorporate food science journals and Food Family Fun Nights into their after school programs to increase the awareness of a healthy lifestyle. This hands-on workshop is sure to get you moving and exploring with foods.

Presenter: Beverly Bollenbecker, Cabarrus County 4-H

Making Them Visible: Identifying, Supporting, and Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents



Strand: Advocacy

Room: Lakeshore 4

Our Children's Place will share with participants what they have learned about an often invisible group of children, those with an incarcerated parent. The presenter will talk about what we know and do not know about these children, what strategies could be developed and implemented to identify and serve these children, how to engage advocates in a dialogue about advancing policies supporting the children, and new ways to partner and collaborate to better meet the needs of the children (incorporating feedback from previous Synergy workshops). The presenter will discuss the need to gather information and insight from the children themselves to ensure that their voices are heard.

Participants will be able to understand the challenges of identifying and serving children of incarcerated parents and will be more equipped to advocate on behalf of this population. Additionally, the presenter will share current gaps in resources and ways advocates and others can work together to influence policy. Participants will leave the workshop with an increased knowledge of what the needs are of children of incarcerated parents, increased knowledge of what services and programs exist for these children, and tools to advocate for these children and to improve responses, programs, and services. They will be encouraged to take what they learn back to their own professional settings to continue the conversation there.

Presenter: Melissa Radcliff, Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons Center

Project-Based Learning: Adding Value to Content Standards



Strand: Closing Gaps

Room: Lakeshore 3

Project-Based Learning vs Project Oriented Learning:
The evolution of projects in the classroom. The session introduction will begin with a reflective exercise that will help participants think about the evolution of projects in the classroom. Throughout this session participants will learn about traditional models of classroom projects and project based learning by focusing on the differences and the similarities. This session will also review the 8 essentials to project based learning. Participants will also get an opportunity to brainstorm ideas they have in relation to project based learning and how it can be implemented into their respective practices. Session participants will be presented with various resources for project based learning practices in their respective practices.

Project based Learning helps students personalize projects to add value to the overall learning experience, charges students and teachers to go beyond the expected depth of content, and prepares students to use problem solving and curriculum content to improve the world they live in.

Presenter: Miya Plummer, Global Scholars Academy, 21st Century Community Learning Center

SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Lunch and STEM Keynote • 12:00pm – 2:00pm • University Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: **Sandy Marshall**, *Founder/CEO, Project Scientist*



Sandy Marshall has spent the past twenty-five years in nonprofit management, including work with the American Heart Association, Special Olympics and Easter Seals; she is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE).

Three years after creating the national cause marketing campaign, NASCAR Day, Ms. Marshall founded The NASCAR Foundation, which is now a \$5 million organization engaging millions of fans annually. In her nearly ten years at NASCAR, she believes her most important work was in the STEM education area of NASCAR. Engaging the company and sport with non-profits and making STEM exciting and relevant through motorsports. While funding national STEM initiatives through The NASCAR Foundation, Sandy learned of the disadvantages that girls and women have in STEM majors and careers and became committed to doing what she could to make a difference in her own community. Project Scientist had lift off!

Personally, Sandy had experienced gender stereotyping and a lack of role models as she pursued a STEM major in college, and as a result changed majors. As a mother of two young girls with a passion for science, Sandy remains committed to changing the status quo for her girls, as well as girls across the country.

Project Scientist began during the summer of 2011 out of Sandy's guesthouse in Charlotte, NC. The organization is now on four University campuses including Caltech, University of Southern California, University of California Irvine/Concordia, and the University of North Carolina Charlotte/Johnson and Wales. Project Scientist academies are now serving over 2,000 girls annually.

Ms. Marshall attended the University of Southern California, where she received a BS in Public Policy with an emphasis on Nonprofits. She has a certificate in nonprofit management from the University of California, Irvine. Sandy and her family currently split time between Laguna Beach, Pasadena and Charlotte.

Workshop Session D • 2:15pm – 3:30pm

Closing Behavior Gaps through School Climate and Social and Emotional Learning



Strand: Closing Gaps
Room: Lakeshore 2

School districts across North Carolina are focusing efforts on school climate and creating positive cultures for learning. But, school climate is more than positive behavior interventions or restorative justice. These behavior management programs have stronger impact when there is an aligned effort to foster a school-wide social and emotional learning (SEL) culture. Participants will learn from an SEL expert about how explicitly teaching SEL skills to students and adults in a school impacts climate, attendance, and academic achievement.

Learning objectives include: understanding the elements of social and emotional learning; understanding the impact of SEL on students' academics, attendance, and behavior through the use of data; understanding how a strong SEL program can be established and grow (using Charlotte programs as an example).

Presenter: Julia Rugg, *WINGS for Kids*

CSI – Creative Science Investigations



Strand: STEM
Room: Lakeview

Participants will take from this session a newfound knowledge of creative science investigations and the way that creative thinking and problem solving is able to solve a multitude of mysteries. Participants will leave with the knowledge of what happens when mysterious circumstances happen and creative ways of solving an unknown is required. We will proceed to examine elements that will piece together a "crime scene" and allow participants to analyze the evidence. Participants will leave knowing how to analyze unknown elements and the ability to make the components necessary to "hook" their students into the mystery.

Students will benefit from this training by the amount of science STEM that participants will be able to take back to their afterschool programs as a result of their attendance in my session. This session will supply the afterschool programs with a hands-on curriculum that will enable the students to "get down and dirty" in solving simulated crime scenes with

Workshop Session D • 2:15pm – 3:30pm, continued

creative science. This curriculum can be adapted from the very young students to the middle and high school students. Students will be given the opportunity to use scientific principles that will enhance the ability of the student to perform tasks and solve problems in this format that will in turn, increase student retention of the activities. Bottom line, kids will learn about the ability of science to solve problems of all types, and they will leave your afterschool program with the knowledge of the ability of creative science to solve a multitude of mysteries.

Presenter: Debra Venable, *Mud Pie Science*

Globe-Trotters – Engaging our Future Leaders to Reach their Potential Best!



Strand: Community Collaboration

Room: Lakeshore 3

Globe-Trotters is McCrary Elementary's 21st Century Community Learning Center program. Join us to learn more about our program where eighty students receive fun, thematic instruction based upon fifth grade science standards. Through a variety of methods (research, skill practice, STEM activities, community partnerships and vocabulary instruction), students receive additional grade level learning time and "catch-up" instruction to help ensure personal success. In addition, one of the biggest accomplishments of our program is how we can empower parents. Yes, we are building the skills of our children, but, we are also building the skills of the parents. They are learning, through our partnership with UNCG, that they have a voice for their children.

Presenter: Christin Robbins, *McCrary Elementary, 21st Century Community Learning Center*

Co-Presenter: Julie Brady, *McCrary Elementary, 21st Century Community Learning Center*

NC Aquariums: Bring Aquatic Science to You!



Strand: Community Collaboration

Room: Lakeshore 4

The North Carolina Aquariums are dedicated to offering fun, hands on learning experiences to school groups across our state. Through our Outreach and Distance Learning

programming, it has never been easier to connect with the Aquariums, and to get your students involved. With the use of live animals, STEM learning principles, and topics that correlate to NC Science Standards, our Distance Learning and Outreach programs are a big hit with students and teachers alike. During this presentation, we will demonstrate several of our most popular programs, and connect you with all of the resources the NC Aquariums have to offer you.

Presenter: Kristin Holloman, *North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher*

Playing with Fire: Conflict, Communication and Your True Colors of Leadership!



Strand: Program Leadership

Room: Glenwaters

What is YOUR work style? Task-focused? Conceptual and strategic? Do you focus on the relational values of your work? Or are you often the "life" of the office? Do not miss this absolutely illuminating presentation that will leave you with a clearer picture of how to work with those around you! This fast paced presentation is designed to quickly challenge each of us to analyze and increase the current level of cohesion with our other staff and colleagues.

Presenter: Eric Rowles, *Leading to Change*

Co-Presenter: Fred Baker, *Leading to Change*

Understanding Healthy Living



Strand: Healthy Living

Room: Lakeshore 1

Whether it is called social/emotional learning, life skills, or whole child instruction, teaching children and adults why, when, and how to make personally and socially responsible decisions is health education. In North Carolina we call it Healthy Living, and it has been part of the Basic Education Plan since 1985. Learn how to maximize the limited time available during out-of-school so that children and adults understand and adopt the behaviors to not only live longer but live better every day.

Presenter: Johanna Chase, *NC Department of Public Instruction*

Workshop Session E • 3:45pm – 5:00pm

Creating and Sustaining Afterschool Programs Through Community Partnership and Strong Collaboration



Strand: Community Collaboration
Room: Lakeshore 2

Community partnership and collaboration is essential to initiate, develop, and sustain long-term, dynamic after-school program. This session will explore these topics in detail.

Presenter: Theresa Isibor, *International Center for Community Development*

Fit-Tastic Children's Programming: Making Movement Count



Strand: Healthy Living, Front Line Practitioners
Room: Lakeview

This high energy session will focus on the importance of building movement into your program. An increased focus on test scores and performance has led to a sharp decline in dedicated movement time for our students during their normal school day. For this reason, it has never been more important to make the most out of your movement time with them! Whether you have a few hours to plan for, or need ideas on quick "filler" games to use in transitions, this workshop will help you tap into your creative side and get back to your inner child. In this session we will explore a variety of games and activities that will get your students running, laughing, and sweating, so come prepared to move and shake with us while we show you how to make fitness fun!

Presenter: Stephanie Beasley, *Proehlfic Park*
Co-Presenter: Rodney Beasley, *Proehlfic Park*

Hands-On Science with Classroom Critters



Strand: STEM
Room: Lakeshore 4

Add action and excitement to your STEM program with live organisms! Discover fun, simple hands-on activities with pill/sow bugs, termites, bessbugs, and butterflies that you can use in your curriculum. Learn about care and handling, as well as easy ways to introduce inquiry. Additional resources are available online.

Presenter: Angela Cruise, *Carolina Biological Supply Company*
Co-Presenter: Sarah Knotts, *Carolina Biological Supply Company*

Impacting Students Through Tennis



Strand: Healthy Living
Room: Glenwaters

Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the steps required to add tennis to their program. The tennis program is very flexible, as it can work with all ages and no tennis courts are required. Attendees will also learn about the variety of educational curriculums that can run alongside their tennis program. The presentation will conclude with insights from programs who have successfully added tennis in the after school realm.

Presenter: Andrew Waldrop, *North Carolina Tennis Foundation*

Co-Presenter: Phil Kuntz, *North Carolina Tennis Foundation*

Nuts and Bolts of Effective Leadership



Strand: Program Leadership
Room: Lakeshore 3

The focus of the session is to give valuable information and tools for effective leadership in the current industry. Participants will learn how to build collaboration around the overall vision of their organization. They will also learn how to get a more focused day of productivity from the stakeholders tied to the vision of their organization, learn to use processes to produce the product desired for greater outcomes, and collaboratively tackle tough staffing employment challenges. Participants will also learn about doing more with less, how the process is more important than the product, as well as explore some leadership styles.

Presenter: Oliver Pittman, *Sure Promise Christian Church*

Town Hall: Best Practices in After School



Strand: Front Line Practitioners
Room: Lakeshore 1

Participants will learn best practices in the following areas: improving student performance, advocacy, and closing gaps. Participants will learn how to rally school and community to support their after school programs. Participants will also learn the value of after school networking to enhance program delivery.

Presenter: Ed Bell, *NC Department of Public Instruction*
Co-Presenter: Carmen Blackmon, *Above and Beyond, 21st Century Community Learning Center*

SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Coffee, Muffins & Networking • 8:30am–9:00am • Lakeshore Ballroom Foyer

Workshop Session F • 9:00am – 10:15am

Addressing Behavioral/Mental Health in Out of School Settings



Strand: Healthy Living
Room: Lakeshore 1

In 2015, when the US Congress crafted the Every Student Succeeds Act, they recognized the need to emphasize health in regular school and out-of-school settings. This session will help out-of-school professionals support children and families as they cope with conflict, seek out resources, and manage behaviors during out-of-school time.

Presenter: Johanna Chase, NC Department of Public Instruction

Afterschool Programs and the Child Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Is CACFP Right for Me?



Strand: Closing Gaps
Room: Lakeshore 2

Participants will:

- Receive an overview of the CACFP at-risk afterschool meals program & how it operates.
- Increase knowledge and skills about CACFP and determine if CACFP is right for them to apply to participate.
- Learn how to calculate a projected reimbursement for their program

Presenter: Jessica Bridgman, NC DHHS, Division of Public Health

Division of Child Development and Early Education New Initiatives Impacting School-Age Care!



Strand: Program Leadership
Room: Lakeshore 3

Come find out what's new and upcoming at the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education. Changes are always occurring in the field of early childhood and school-age education. Tune in to what is happening statewide related to licensing and other initiatives. Learn how these activities may impact school-age care settings.

Participants will learn about recent initiatives of the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education impacting school-age programs. An overview and brief introduction of these initiatives will be presented including, current federal

requirements of the Child Care Development Fund (health and safety trainings); DCDEE WORKS; online Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan; upcoming Criminal Background Check portal and new temporary Child Car Rules.

Presenter: Laura Hewitt, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education

Engage & Empower Girls with STEM – It's the Beauty of Science



Strand: STEM
Room: Lakeshore 4

Engage & Empower Girls with STEM is a hands-on professional development make and take workshop! Participants will learn effective practices in implementing STEM curriculum to include real life STEM applications. Participants learn how to integrate STEM concepts in-school and OST programs by engaging educators in a hands-on STEM activity to demonstrate the excitement, innovation, and learning experience of a student. Participants will keep and take their projects home!

Presenter: Jacquelyn Thomas, Girls Pursuing Science

Mentoring 101



Strand: Closing Gaps
Room: Lakeview

Participants will learn the following from this presentation:

1. How to assess, plan, execute and evaluate a mentoring program for students, including those who reside in underserved and poverty stricken communities.
2. To be able to distinguish the difference between prevention, intervention, treatment, and enforcement as it relates to youth issues.
3. How to avoid the pitfalls of toxic giving.
4. How important it is to understand how fatherlessness, abuse, neglect, and the lack of positive role models influence the behavior of youth.
5. The intrinsic value of mentoring.

Presenter: Bob Wilson, GIDE (Guiding Institute for Developmental Education)

Co-Presenter: Tamara Patterson, GIDE (Guiding Institute for Developmental Education)

Way Beyond Icebreakers: Interactive Tools to Engage Our Young People!



Strand: Front Line Practitioners

Room: Glenwaters

GET READY TO MOVE! In this HIGHLY interactive session participants will experience how to take various risk-level activities (often mistakenly referred to as "ice breakers") and turn them into powerful vehicles for

OST participation and engagement. This session will be presented by one of the premiere training agencies in the country, and will showcase tools that youth providers can put into immediate use! You'll walk away with your head spinning FULL of new ideas - don't miss this one!

Presenter: Eric Rowles, *Leading To Change*

Co-Presenter: Fred Baker, *Leading To Change*

Workshop Session G • 10:30am – 11:45am

"A Weight Room for the Brain" Improving Academic Success



Strand: Closing Gaps

Room: Lakeshore 4

Vision and Sensory learning related challenges can be mistaken for ADD or ADHD. Students and adults present as extremely bright but may have a difficult time following auditory or written directions, difficulty completing academic tasks or may perform inconsistently on academic assessments. Through cognitive, memory, vision, and sensory training students strengthen inabilities and ultimately improve academically. Participants in this session will identify vision and sensory challenges, observe and experience cognitive testing and vision screening and participate in exercises that rewire the brain to be able to handle the rigors of academics.

Presenter: Debra McFadden, *eXcelerate Excellence Learning Lab*

Division of Child Development and Early Education New Initiatives Impacting School-Age Care!



Strand: Program Leadership

Room: Lakeshore 3

Come find out what's new and upcoming at the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education. Changes are always occurring in the field of early childhood and school-age education. Tune in to what is happening statewide related to licensing and other initiatives. Learn how these activities may impact school-age care settings.

Participants will learn about recent initiatives of the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education impacting school-age programs. An overview and brief introduction of these initiatives will be presented including, current federal requirements of the Child Care Development Fund (health and safety trainings); DCDEE WORKS; online Emergency

Preparedness and Response Plan; upcoming Criminal Background Check portal and new temporary Child Car Rules.

Presenter: Laura Hewitt, *NC Division of Child Development and Early Education*

GEMS STEAM Club



Strand: Reading, Literacy, and Writing

Room: Lakeshore 2

Participants will learn how Reading, Literacy, and Writing are integrated into a girl's-only school-based club (GEMS). Explore how we incorporated themes from the Hidden Figures Book and Movie to explore girl's perceptions of themselves in STEM careers through writing, reading, and visual expression. Participants will be engaged in hands-on STEAM activities and learn about ways to engage girls, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

Presenter: Denise Johnson, *Winston-Salem State University – GEMS*

Co-Presenter: Shanta Kilgore, *Winston-Salem State University – GEMS*

Providing Healthy Meals through the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program



Strand: Healthy Living

Room: Lakeshore 1

In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program and ways they can successfully incorporate this grant into their after school program. The Child and Adult Care Feeding program is a federal grant program that provides reimbursement for after school snacks and meals that are served to at risk populations. During this session we will learn more about the CACFP program itself, as well as successful implementation strategies and ways to incorporate the healthiest foods

SYNERGY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Workshop Session G • 10:30am – 11:45am, continued

possible on a small budget. Participants will actively participate in this session by learning how to use CACFP guidelines to create their own healthy menu for use with this program. Participants will leave this presentation with the tools they need to get started as a CACFP site.

Presenter: Megan Runion, YMCA of the Triangle Area, 21st Century Community Learning Center

Rockstar Readiness: Employment Skills in Action!



Strand: Front Line Practitioners

Room: Glenwaters

What is the connection between financial literacy, career exploration, and a furious Rap Battle? This is a whole new way to approach Workforce Readiness Training with our youth participants as they build REAL SKILLS for REAL LIFE! But rather than a curriculum showcase, this presentation is a highlight of the interactive tools and techniques that can be used to amplify your training and skill-takeaway development for your youth workforce. Don't miss this opportunity to see innovation and interaction that will spark new techniques and strategies that use can use immediately!

Presenter: Eric Rowles, Leading To Change

Co-Presenter: Fred Baker, Leading To Change

There's an App for That?



Strand: STEM

Room: Lakeview

Participants will learn how to incorporate user friendly apps to supplement instruction. While supporting the academic, physical, social and emotional behaviors of students, they will learn other great fun tools to use to collect data and progress for their program. Most programs have access to either a computer lab or tablets but throughout this training we will share apps that students along with their families can use at home.

Presenter: Tina Johnson, Eliada Homes, Inc., 21st Century Community Learning Center

Co-Presenter: Tammorah Mathis, NC Department of Public Instruction

Closing Session • 11:45am – 12:00pm • University Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Brandon Patterson, Section Chief, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



Brandon Patterson joined the NC Department of Public Instruction in November 2007. Currently, he is the Section Chief and State Coordinator of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program for North Carolina. The 21st CCLC Program is housed in the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support Division, which supports and monitors Title I, Title II, Migrant Ed, School Improvement Grants, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and other smaller federal programs.

Prior to his current position, he worked in the Educator Effectiveness (formerly Educator Recruitment and Development) Division and another area formerly known as the School Safety and Climate Section. In addition, he has had administrative experience at elementary, middle and high-school levels. Brandon is a Durham native where he resides with his wife and three daughters. Although he has always called Durham home, he is partial to Carolina blue and is an avid Tar Heel fan!

Training Credit Distribution • 12:00pm – 1:00pm • Midway 2

SYNERGY 2017 VENDORS

The CORE Project



Helping young men and women understand their past behaviors, build their self-esteem and have them graduate the program with the confidence and knowledge of how to integrate what they've learned into their daily lives, The CORE Project teaches the skills

to empower today's youth to make better decisions when faced with potential situations that could lead to negative behaviors. As a component of a research-based restorative justice model, CORE adds a new dimension of diversity, accountability and responsibility to the participants. The CORE Project is being implemented as part of schools' curriculum, as an after-school, disciplinary tool and as part of the Health Class Curriculum – as it meets many of the Common Core standards.

www.creatingoureality.com

Discount School Supply



Discount School Supply is a manufacturer and supplier of educational materials that include

arts/crafts, games, active play materials, STEM products, and materials to cover all learning outcomes.

www.discountchoolsupply.com

Discovery Place



DISCOVERY PLACE

One of the top hands-on science museums in the nation, Discovery Place

provides ever-changing, entertaining facilities that engage people in the active exploration of science and nature. Our afterschool programs bring relevant, contemporary science to life through multi-session workshops that allow an in-depth study of subjects ranging from astronomy, dissections and community-based problem solving to bridge building, robotics and coding. Workshops can be customized for different ages and groups. Aligned with National Science Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards, Discovery

Place afterschool programs expose students to hands-on STEM activities while nurturing essential 21st century skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

www.discoveryplace.org

Leading To Change



Leading To Change is a nationally awarded training agency based out of Charlotte, NC.

We provide customized, affordable, ROCKSTAR training for your staff and youth participants, mixed in with a raucous combination of music, laughter, energy, interaction, and REAL-LIFE tools that can be used immediately. We have over 25 training modules to choose from, including "PLAYING WITH FIRE", "ROCKSTAR JOB READINESS", "BEYOND RACE DIVERSITY", "GENERATIONAL CROSSROADS", "ROCKSTAR CUSTOMER SERVICE", and "WHAT TEENS CAN'T-AND WON'T-TELL YOU". We've presented to over 150,000 participants since 2006 and can't wait to work with your staff!

www.leadingtochange.com

North Carolina Tennis Foundation



The North Carolina Tennis Foundation (NCTF) was founded in 1961 with the purpose of supporting organizations and programs that enhance the lives of people through tennis and education. One of the

most important programs the NCTF works with is the National Junior Tennis and Learning (NJTL) Network. Through the NJTL Network the NCTF partners with after school programs to introduce tennis with fun and engaging educational curriculums connected to Common Core Standards. For more information on the NJTL Network and the NCTF please stop by our booth in the vendor area or visit one of our sessions during the SYNERGY conference.

www.NCtennis.com

SYNERGY Vendors

TechTerra Education



TechTerra Education offers after school and summer camps, professional development training as well as educational product development support. With STEM and Maker's Ed exploding in education, we provide an opportunity to collaborate and explore the newest and most effective tools in a hands-on environment and demonstrate their impact for the future of teaching and learning. From STEM and Maker Ed camps to curriculum to educational products research and studies, our team is here to Empower Educators and Engage Students!

www.techterraeducation.com

The Walking Classroom



The Walking Classroom is a national award-winning nonprofit program that capitalizes on the favorable link between exercise and cognitive function – students walk, listen, and learn! The

Walking Classroom provides after-school and out-of-school time facilitators a great way to engage different learning styles and provide academic enrichment in a fun innovative way. Kids love the program and don't even realize how much they're benefitting from it. They're learning curriculum-related content while they walk, but just as importantly, they're developing healthy lifestyle habits that empower them.

www.TheWalkingClassroom.org



SYNERGY 2017 PRESENTERS

Stephanie Beasley

Stephanie Beasley holds a degree in Exercise and Sports Science with a concentration in Fitness Leadership. While gaining experience teaching a wide variety of children's fitness classes her emphasis was on designing, marketing, and implementing children's physical fitness programs. She also focused on coursework in Nutrition and Dance. She takes great pride in developing programs for children that will not only keep them active, but help them to develop a positive self-image and learn to work as a team. Stephanie has been the Youth Program Director at Proehlfic Park since June of 2009. She provides her students with tremendous opportunities for growth and development, both athletically and academically, but through spiritual, social, and emotional development as well. Beasley has also implemented a girls only fitness program, called Fit Miss, which is offered both onsite and in local Title 1 schools throughout the community. This program teaches young girls, between the ages of 8-12, about the importance of health, nutrition and self-confidence. Beasley will continue to reach as many students as possible, teaching the importance of movement, activity, and teamwork.

stephanie@proehlficpark.com

Dr. Ed Bell

Dr. Ed Bell has received an AAS and a BA in Criminal Justice, his MA in Counseling, as well as his Ed.D in Educational Leadership. Dr. Bell has also acquired over 25 years of experience in after school delivery and administration. He currently works as a Program Administrator for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

ed.bell@dpi.nc.gov

Vanessa Benton

Vanessa Benton is the Executive Director of the North Carolina region of Citizen Schools where she serves middle schools in both the Charlotte-Mecklenburg and Durham school districts. Vanessa came to Citizen Schools with a strong track record of accomplishments in both the private and education sectors. She

began her career in education as a Broad Resident with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools where she spent almost five years supporting C-level leaders while also managing major strategic initiatives. Prior to joining Citizen Schools Vanessa consulted with school districts and charter management organizations to resolve complex issues and facilitated professional development workshops to help school leaders improve their critical thinking and decision-making skills. She also worked for an education technology firm supporting personalized learning initiatives in client districts. Vanessa earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Pittsburgh and her M.B.A. from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

vanessabenton@citizenschools.org

Beverly Bollenbecker

Beverly Bollenbecker has worked for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for 29 years. Beverly has been the 4-H Program Associate and providing 4-H clubs and special programming to after school centers in Cabarrus County for 22 years. She currently works with 25 after school centers in Cabarrus County, which includes 275 teachers and 2,500 after school children. Beverly is thorough and meticulous in her work and loves to bring after school children and teachers new and innovative ideas that are hands-on. Beverly has been trained by NC State.

beverly_bollenbecker@ncsu.edu

Jessica Bridgman

Jessica Bridgman MPH RDN LDN is a Nutrition Program Consultant with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Nutrition Services Branch, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). As a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN), she is excited about the new CACFP meal patterns effective October 1, 2017 and the positive impact this will have on all participants. She also coordinates the NC Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Designation Initiative.

jessica.bridgman@dhhs.nc.gov

Kelly Brown

Kelly Brown attended Chowan University, and received his Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies. In the past, he has served as an intern for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at Western Carolina University. Kelly began at First Baptist Sylva in the spring of 2013 as the After School Director and Associate Pastor Intern. Since then, the ministry has grown to provide an array of care options for school-age children. These care options include Teacher Workday Care, Parents Night Out Care, Snow Day Care, Spring Break Care and a full day summer camp for school-age children.

brownkelly@gmail.com

Sheba Brown

A NC Teaching Fellow and National Board Certified educator with over 23 years' test prep experience, Sheba Lowe Brown is the co-founder of A+ Test Prep, where students improve their SAT/ACT scores to not only get into college but also earn scholarships. APlus Test Prep's top 6 students in 2016 earned over \$1.5 million in college scholarships. Brown earned her B.A. & M.A.T. from UNC-Chapel Hill.

sheba@aplushigherscores.com

Johanna Chase

Johanna Chase is a school health education administrator with 31 years of professional experience. She is nationally recognized for her work in K-12 school health education curriculum development, advocacy, and policy design. Her work in school health education can be found in curricula, textbooks, and video documentaries including a BBC documentary. Currently she supports out of school programming in North Carolina where her expertise supports 21st CCLC in whole child, whole school, and whole community approaches to extended learning strategies.

johanna.chase@dpi.nc.gov

continued next page

Presenters

Angela Cruise

Angela Cruise is a science education product developer at Carolina Biological Supply Company in Burlington, NC. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Entomology from North Carolina State University and has a Bachelor's in Science degree in Biology from Loyola University Maryland. Angela has extensive research and teaching experience and has given numerous professional presentations on entomological topics across the country.

angela.cruise@carolina.com

Laura Hewitt

Laura Hewitt, a Policy and Planning Consultant with the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education, has over 20 years of experience in the early childhood school-age care fields. She holds a Master of Arts in Religious Education degree with a Concentration in Childhood Education.

laura.hewitt@dhhs.nc.gov

Shereene Hill-Veal

Shereene Hill-Veal is a native New Yorker that has lived in Charlotte, North Carolina since 1987. A graduate of Johnson C Smith University with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies, she has worked as a programmer, trainer, and lover of students K-12 for over 30 years. Presently, Ms. Veal is the registrar and a mentor at Thomasboro Academy in Charlotte where she also serves as the coach of the Black History Quiz Bowl. Always a trainer of BSAC and STEM, she also works very closely with USTA. A mom of 4 and a grandmother of 5, she runs a successful travel agency. She has been married for almost 30 years to her high school sweetheart and they also run an equally successful internet marketing business.

shereeneh.veal@cms.k12.nc.us

Kristin Holloman

Kristin Holloman is the Outreach Coordinator at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. She is responsible for scheduling and leading all off-site education programming, including live animal presentations, distance learning programs, and community festivals. Kristin has a passion for sharing the unique aquatic environments found in North Carolina with groups across the state.

kristin.holloman@ncaquariums.com

Marie Hopper

Marie Hopper is President of FIRST North Carolina, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to inspiring the next generation of engineers, innovators, and STEM leaders. She began her FIRST career as a FIRST LEGO League (FLL) coach in 2001. Over the course of nine years, she coached 27 FLL teams, 3 FIRST LEGO League Jr. (FLL Jr.) teams, a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team and a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team. She thought she was retired from FIRST when her son graduated high school but the coaching community had other ideas! She became the Regional Director for North Carolina in 2009 and helped orchestrate the first-ever FRC Regional Tournament in North Carolina in 2010. FIRST North Carolina was founded in 2012 to advance the mission of FIRST even further in North Carolina. Marie is passionate about the mission of FIRST North Carolina - ensuring that every student in the state of North Carolina has access to a high quality FIRST program.

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Nicole Hunter

Nicole Hunter works as the Partnership Development Officer at The Walking Classroom Institute. She attended North Carolina Central University, where she found her passion for advocating for youth in the community. Upon graduating, she moved on to work for a nonprofit that matched juveniles involved in the court system with mentors. She went on to develop her own program that focused on developing leadership skills, healthy behaviors, and college preparedness for at-risk middle school girls. Her desire to positively impact youth led her to The Walking Classroom, which allowed her to further her passion to improve the mental, physical and emotional health of youth.

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Theresa N. Isibor, MSPH, Ed.D

Theresa Isibor serves as Director of Global School 21 Initiative for Strategic Planning and Global Alliance. She is a consultant for strategic planning, Global Partnership project management, monitoring and evaluation. Through this role, she addresses program and policy

issues in public schools. Theresa also facilitates discussions in communities across the United States that engaged students, parents and teachers. In her role at ICCD, she acts as an advocate for the betterment of social and economic conditions and the improvement of opportunities for low income, underserved, and disadvantaged children and adults in the Cabarrus community by eradicating illiteracy through education.

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Denise Johnson

Denise Johnson is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of Middle Grades Education at Winston-Salem State University. She is also the director of two community-based outreach programs, SciTech and GEMS, which seek to increase awareness and exposure of STEM careers and majors to underrepresented groups. Dr. Johnson engages students from her undergraduate and graduate education programs, students from other universities, faculty, and business industry professionals in informal education efforts in her community. Dr. Johnson is a graduate of North Carolina State University (B.S., M.S.) and George Washington University (Ed.D.).

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Tina Johnson

Tina Johnson has 28 years of experience in education. The first 26 years she spent as a classroom teacher. Her experience ranges from kindergarten to high school. She spent her first 17 years in Youngstown, Ohio where part of her career was helping to form and open a charter school. Tina then moved to Durham, NC where she was a fifth grade teacher and PBiS coach for 9 years. For the last two years, she has been a director of a 21st CCLC after school program through Eliada Homes in Asheville, NC. Tina holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematics (K-12) and a Master's Degree in Literacy Education (K-12), both from Youngstown State University.

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Kim Jones

Kim Jones is a graduate student at Winston Salem State University getting her Master's Degree in Middle Grades Education with a concentration in Science. She received a BS in Chemistry from Winston Salem State University in 2009. She is interested in how socioeconomic status and identifying other Title 1 barriers impact student achievement in schools.

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Debra McFadden

Debra McFadden is currently a teacher in Durham Public Schools. After graduating from Winston Salem State University, she began her education career at Moore Alternative School in Winston-Salem, NC. Her passion and dedication to education afforded her the experience of supervising teachers in the Head Start Program and becoming a Resource Teacher for the JCPS Gheens Professional Development Academy both in Louisville, KY. At the Gheens Academy, she collaborated with cohorts to design staff development sessions for principals on School Change, Middle School Initiatives and Cultural Diversity. Ms. McFadden earned her Master of Education Degree from the University of Louisville. As an Education Consultant at the University of Delaware, she co-taught a classroom management class, trained and implemented Conflict Resolution techniques to adults and students across the state of Delaware. She also consulted through the Office of School Change. While serving as the Director of the 21st CCLC Program, Ms. McFadden organized the STEM Science Fair and Annual STEM Basketball fundraiser with students from North Carolina Central University. Ms. McFadden also worked as a Beginning Teacher Mentor and Coordinator at a charter school and a public school. She also earned her K-12 Principal Certification however, instead of becoming a Principal she became the owner of the eXcelerate Excellence Learning Lab: A Weight Room for the Brain. She continues to study the Structure of Intellect theories as a Specialist and Consultant under the tutelage of Dr. Bob Meeker and Diane Hochstein.

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Betsey McFarland

Betsey McFarland has worked as a nonprofit professional her entire career. She has worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations and served in a number of capacities - from special events to grant writing, marketing and communications, to executive leadership and consulting. Most recently Betsey has served for the past 5 years as Executive Director of the Wade Edwards Foundation (WELL) in Raleigh, NC. The WELL is an after school program focused on the academic, social and emotional development of Wake County high school students. She has been active in her community as well. In her current role as a 2017 Afterschool Alliance Ambassador, Betsey networks and champions the need for quality afterschool programs and access for all our children.

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Dipak Patel

Dipak Patel is an engineer by trade and has 20 years of information technology experience. Dipak has worked with fortune 500 companies including IBM and Goodyear Tire. While a technology professional, Dipak's passion lies in working with local communities to develop educational programs that encourage students to explore careers in engineering and technology. With that vision, Dipak founded Salient Learning more than 8 years ago and since then, Salient Learning has served more than 2000 students. In his free time, Dipak mentors high school and college students aspiring to be future engineers and scientists.

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Dr. Oliver Pittman

Dr. Oliver L. Pittman Sr. was born in Greenville, NC. He is the Senior Pastor and Founder of Sure Promise Christian Church (SPCC) in Raleigh. He and his wife Anita Pittman have been married 22 years. They have three children, Oliver Jr., Olivia, and Octavia. He has a passion for academia and has matriculated and researched at several colleges and universities including Shaw Divinity and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice at Saint Augustine's College, a Master's Degree in Special Education at North Carolina Central University, a Master's Degree in School

Administration at North Carolina State University and a Doctorate in Ministry at North Carolina College of Theology. Currently, Dr. Pittman is completing a second Doctoral Degree in Institutional Leadership from Hosanna Bible College. He also spent time serving his country in the armed forces as an Infantry Second Lieutenant. He recently retired after 20 years of teaching and administration within the Wake County Public Schools System and is now serving as a full time Pastor at Sure Promise. In addition to pastoring full time, he also serves as the Executive Vice President at Hosanna Bible College in Durham, NC. Dr. Pittman finds preaching and teaching God's Word, the most fulfilling task he has ever embarked upon. His motto is: "Neither success nor failure depends on what people say, but rather what God says, and your agreement with God, about your situation."

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Miya Plummer

Miya Plummer currently holds a Masters in School Administration and Bachelors in Business and Marketing Education. Miya currently serves as the Assistant Principal and 21st Century Program Director at Global Scholars Academy in Durham NC. Miya's goal as an educator is to influence change by adding value to instruction through Project-Based Learning.

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Deborah Prickett

Deborah Prickett, Program Administrator-NCDPI Federal Programs: Deborah has 31 years of education experience. She has worked for 9 years with the NC Department of Public Instruction as a Program Administrator for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and as the Character Education Consultant for NC. In addition, Deborah worked with the Wake County Public School System for 22 years as a K-12 guidance counselor, high school English teacher, and middle school language arts teacher. She held leadership positions of lead counselor and counselor mentor, team leader, and department chair. She was also elected to the Wake County Board of Education and served a four year term for the 16th largest school district in the nation.

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Presenters

Through this experience, she collaborated with many community leaders, county commissioners, mayors, legislators, and other elected officials. At NCDPI, she currently provides technical assistance, budget oversight, and compliance monitoring for 21st CCLC afterschool programs throughout the state.

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Melissa Radcliff

Melissa Radcliff has been with Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons Center based in Wilmington, NC since February 2007. Our Children's Place is a statewide education and advocacy program focused on children of incarcerated parents. Prior to that she was the Executive Director and a founding staff member of the Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County (now the Compass Center for Women and Families), which is the local domestic violence agency serving Orange County, NC. She has worked in the area of victim services since the 1990s including at a domestic violence agency, rape crisis center, prosecutor's office, and police department in Rhode Island, Arizona, and North Carolina. She serves as chair of the Pre-Release Committee for the Orange Correctional Center, a minimum security men's prison facility located in Hillsborough, NC.

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Christin Robbins

Christin Robbins began her teaching career in 2007 as a kindergarten teacher. Before becoming the Globe-Trotters Coordinator, she also taught 3rd and 2nd grades at Charles W. McCrary Elementary as well as teaching in the Globe-Trotters program.

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Eric Rowles

Eric Rowles is a nationally recognized trainer, speaker, and consultant who has worked with over 150,000 youth, adults, administrators, professionals, and policy makers within the past 15 years. One part inspirational speaker and published author, one part DJ, and two parts community organizer and parent of two daughters, Eric runs a customized consulting and

facilitation practice that works with for profit and non-profit organizations to achieve progressive and dynamic change. Additionally, Eric is the founder and current Director of the North Carolina Youth Giving Network. Eric's previous experience includes his work as Senior Director of Training with the Youth Leadership Institute where he designed a national training institute that provided over 1,000 days of training in five years to community organizations and coalitions throughout the country. Prior to his work with YLI, Eric was the Director of Leadership Development at Rutgers University (NJ), managed his own touring educational theater organization, Leadership Through Motivation Productions, was the Director of International Youth Summer Abroad programs, and spent five years as a substance abuse prevention coordinator in Los Angeles. Additionally, through his double Bachelors and Master of Science degrees in Ethnic Studies and Educational Leadership, Eric has served as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte as well as Rutgers University (NJ). Eric has also been a volunteer trainer and partner for a wide range of social change agencies and organizations including the National Conference on Community and Justice, College Leadership Diversity Conference, and Teaching Tolerance Curriculum Instruction.

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Julia Rugg

Julia Rugg is the Chief Strategy Officer at WINGS for kids, a nonprofit organization focused on developing social and emotional learning (SEL) skills in at-risk elementary school age youth during the afterschool hours. She has launched WINGS' expansion efforts across the southeast, ensured the WINGS model has been replicated with fidelity and quality through internal and external evaluations, evaluates future growth opportunities, develops partner relationships, and leads efforts to drive the SEL field forward. She has been a presenter at the National Afterschool Association Convention SEL Convening, Wyoming Afterschool Alliance Conference, Effective Learners Convening (hosted by Bridgespan, CASEL, and Character Lab), and contributed to SEL

conversations locally in South Carolina. She is a National Afterschool Matters Fellow with NIOST at the Wellesley Centers for Women. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

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Megan Runion

Megan Runion is a certified teacher and the Grant Project Coordinator for the YMCA of the Triangle Area. She serves as the Project Director for their four 21 CCLC sites, as well as the coordinator for their CACFP program. The YMCA of the Triangle operates 31 CACFP sites in the triangle area, serving roughly 20,000 snacks/meals to at risk children each month.

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Dr. Jacquelyn Thomas

Scientist, Educator, and pioneer in STEM and STEAM Education. Dr. Jacquelyn Thomas has been implementing STEM project based programs before the department of education created the acronym. As the Executive Director and Founder of Kids N Technology, a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization, she developed the Girls Pursuing Science program to engage girls in chemistry and math as early as 4th grade. GPS is an award winning curriculum that is being implemented in school districts nationally during in-school and out-of-school. Dr. Thomas' strongest attributes are leadership, building strong collaborations, and leveraging resources. She is an Entrepreneur, Chemist, and Middle School Robotics Facilitator. Her awards include: American Graduate (PBS - Public Broadcasting Station), Best STEM Program (WTIV-Charlotte), Best Community Award (WTVI-Charlotte), and Small Business of the Year (SBA-TN). She is a member of WISE (Women In Science Engineering) and also a Volunteer for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), implementing innovative STEM and STEAM activities.

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Debra Venable

Debra Venable currently travels the country training teachers, afterschool providers, and communities to embrace hands-on STEM in their programs. She presents multiple curriculum all over the country at National, State, and Local conferences to share with large groups the importance of including STEM in their interaction with students. Including STEM in their programs not only increases STEM awareness, but will also increase higher order thinking skills that spread throughout all subjects. Debra owns her own business called Mud Pie Science where she presents, consults for STEM, trains staff, evaluates afterschool STEM programs for Harvard University DOS, hosts community STEM NIGHTS, and sells STEM KITS all over the country and Canada. She has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science as a Medical Laboratory Technician, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree in Education, and a Master's Degree in Administration. She has 30+ years of experience in teaching, 12+ years in Afterschool Programming with 7 of those years being an Afterschool Program Director of a 21st CCLC program. She also works as a consultant and Oklahoma STEM Ambassador for the Oklahoma Afterschool Network working with the Oklahoma 21st CCLC Programs across the state promoting STEM- science, technology, engineering and math to all ages of students and teachers. Debra also serves as an Aerospace Fellow for the Oklahoma Aerospace Commission by sharing the STEM involved in the Aerospace Industry with students that are interested in a STEM education.

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Sherée Vodicka

Sherée Thaxton Vodicka is the Executive Director of the NC Alliance of YMCAs, a statewide coalition comprised of all 26 YMCA Associations in North Carolina. In this role, Vodicka manages the strategic direction, communication, and advocacy work of the state's Alliance in support of the Y's Mission and Cause. Prior to her work with the NC Alliance of YMCAs, Vodicka served as the Director of Advocates for Health in Action, a Wake County-based healthy weight

collaborative. Prior to that, Vodicka served eight years managing integrated marketing communications for the N.C. Division of Public Health's Physical Activity and Nutrition Branch around healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weight for all North Carolinians. Vodicka received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics with honors from the University of Kentucky, and a Master of Arts Degree in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Park Fellow. She is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist, and holds a Nonprofit Management Certificate from Duke University. She is a member of the NC Professional Lobbyist Association, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, Doug.

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Andrew Waldrop

Andrew Waldrop is the Program and Development Director for the North Carolina Tennis Foundation based out of Greensboro, North Carolina. The North Carolina Tennis Foundation was founded in 1961 and supports organizations and programs that enhance the lives of people through tennis and education. For more information on the North Carolina Tennis Foundation please visit www.nctennisfoundation.com.

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Susan Wells

Susan is an educator, innovator and pioneer in the field of mobile learning. For 30 years, she has served as a principal, administrator, teacher, technology coordinator, public speaker and educational technology strategist. She planned and carried out the first school-wide 1:1 deployment of iPod touches in the United States. Susan works with EdTech companies designing and developing products for the K12 education market. Susan serves as the ISTE Mobile Learning Network. She is founder of TechTerra Education (www.TechTerraEducation.com). TechTerra works with students, teachers and administrators across the country and internationally to maximize the use of digital technologies for teaching and learning.

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Bob Wilson

Bob Wilson, after serving in the U.S. Air Force for four years, returned home to attend the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. He earned a degree in Social Welfare and, in 1972, became a College Counselor at his Alma Mater. In 1975, Mr. Wilson worked in Account Sales with Capital Wholesale Liquor where he remained until the company closed in 1980. He then moved into Executive Sales Management, as a key force to start Good Night Bed and Mattress, and later retired as a Business Sales Executive with ADT. After retiring, Mr. Wilson joined Guiding Institute of Developmental Education (GIDE) where he serves as a Site Coordinator for the afterschool homework and tutoring program, helping underserved youth, ages 5 through 18, improve their minds, improve their chance for survival and learn to succeed in a fast-paced changing world. Through GIDE, Mr. Wilson serves as a basketball coach and mentor for PHASAC (Public Housing Authority State Athletic Conference), a drug and gang prevention program. In addition, Mr. Wilson recruits, trains, and prepares other potential mentors for service to Winston-Salem's at-risk youth.

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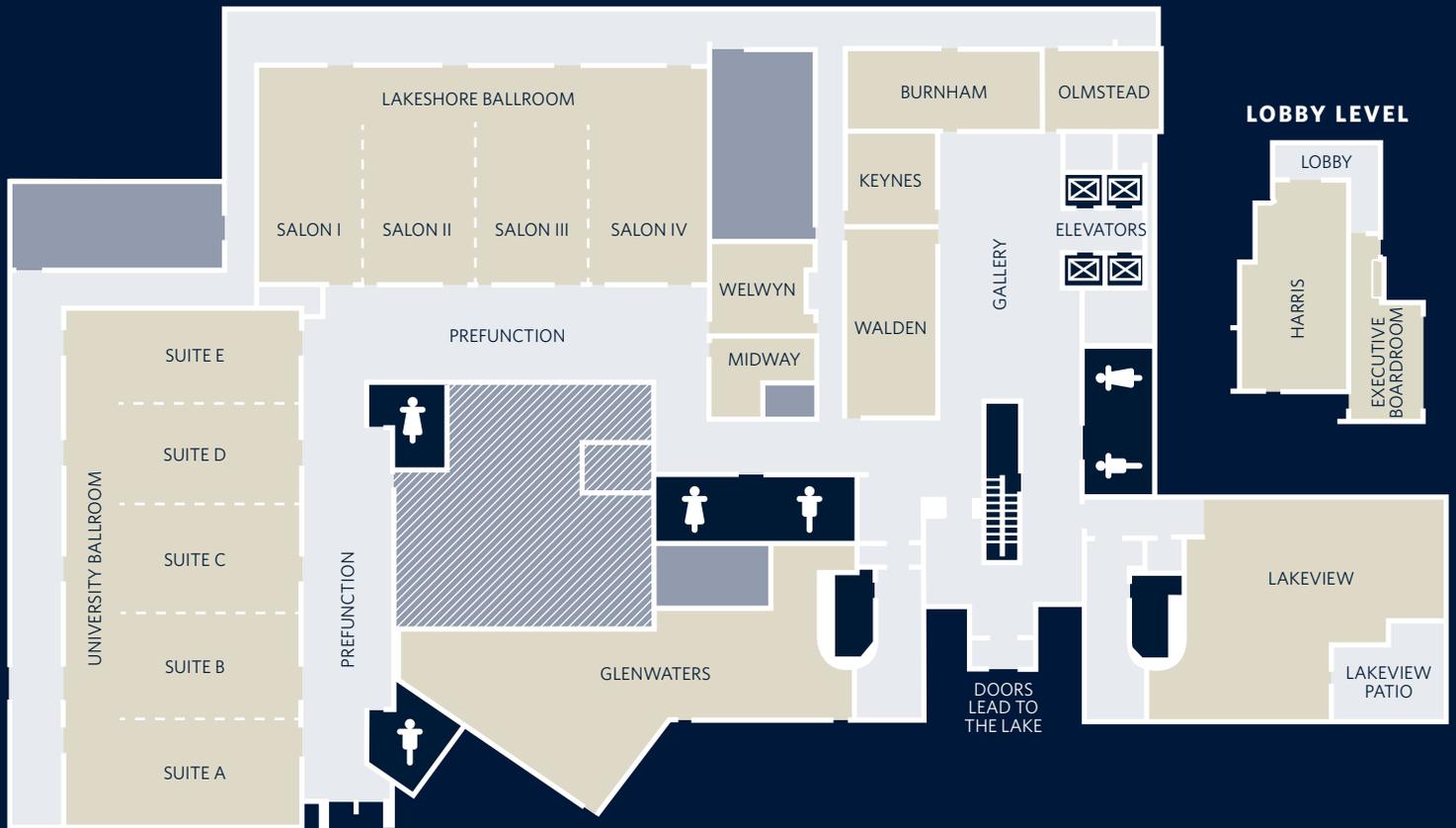
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