

# NC Presidents' Academy Program Summary

## Equity in the COVID Context: Lessons from the Field

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- A virtual event for community college presidents titled *Equity in the Age of COVID: Lessons from the Field*
- The presidential keynote speaker, Dr. Charlene Dukes, President Emerita of Prince George's Community College, shared her college's equity work that dramatically improved retention and completion rates of historically underserved men attending the college
- Dr. Janet Spriggs and Dr. Lawrence Rouse responded to questions about equity work in NC during the Presidential Panel
- Three small groups of approximately ten community college presidents each engaged in facilitated conversations about what they've been learning and how they are leading for equity

### ATTENDANCE

- 28 community college presidents attended the virtual session

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Dr. Charlene Dukes, President Emerita of Prince George's Community College, presented the keynote address titled "Diverse Male Student Initiative: The Urgency of Success"
- Dr. Janet Spriggs, President of Forsyth Technical Community College, and Dr. Lawrence Rouse, President of Pitt Community College, offered their experiences in regards to equity work in NC during the Presidential Panel

### FACILITATION

**Dr. Charlene Dukes** - President Emerita, Prince George's Community College (Maryland)

**Dr. Ken Ender** - Professor of Practice, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research | President Emeritus, Harper College (Illinois)

**Dr. Marty Rittling** - Professor of Practice, Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research | President Emerita, Davidson County Community College

### RESOURCES PROVIDE

- North Carolina Community College System Office - raw enrollment shift snapshot data
- A variety of supporting materials to offer continuing education on equity in higher education and next steps for institutions at working from various levels

## OVERALL FEEDBACK

- Presidents shared their praise for the keynote speaker and presidential panel which offered them opportunities to hear from their colleagues about actionable steps for leading equity at their institutions
- In their feedback to the Belk Center, presidents indicated interest in continuing equity conversations around these topics:
  - Culture and planning
  - Diverse student and employee recruitment and persistence
  - Leading boards of trustees
  - Navigating politics

## FUTURE PLANNING

Specifically, presidents would like to hear panel discussions around these questions in future sessions:

- Deciding on an area of focus when there are so many equity gaps in our programs
- Getting to know the local elected officials and community leaders.
- Build buy-in with faculty and leading the work needed to build equity into teaching, (IE. Inclusive Pedagogy)
- Identifying specific and visible actions presidents have taken that makes the institution's fiscal and practical commitment to equity clear
- Developing strategies for working with staff or faculty with strong opinions about equity being "overblown" as an issue in the community college environment
- Learning about institutional changes presidents have made that help address equity and/or social justice

**The Belk Center Presidents' Academy will be hosting the next session on Tuesday, October 27 from 11 am -12:30 pm. This session, titled Continued Conversations: Leading Equity Work, will provide presidents with the opportunity to engage in a large group conversation with a presidential panel about their questions and issues of interest related to leading equity work.**

## CONTACT THE BELK CENTER

For more information about data within this document, please contact the belk center at [belk\\_center@ncsu.edu](mailto:belk_center@ncsu.edu).

*The Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research at NC State's College of Education develops and sustains exceptional community college leadership committed to advancing college access, the social and economic mobility of their colleges' students, and the economic competitiveness of their regions. The Center conducts and disseminates research to address current and emerging student success challenges facing community college leadership and policymakers in North Carolina and beyond.*