

MEET THE TEACHING & LEARNING HUB CO-DIRECTORS

In an effort to further our shared mission of fostering student success across the state, the Belk Center, Achieving the Dream (ATD) and the NC Student Success Center are leveraging our considerable technical expertise to support full and part-time faculty and staff educators from North Carolina community colleges in their efforts to build equity in learning and student success through Teaching and Learning Hubs. The collaborative work began in 2019 with Teaching and Learning case studies at six community colleges; the findings were used in the development of the Hubs.

Offering in-person, virtual, and hybrid workshops and seminars, the Teaching and Learning Hubs will help faculty learn about, adopt, test and scale the evidence-based strategies that have increased equitable student success outcomes across the nation. As highly engaged faculty, the Co-Directors in these first two Hubs will play a critical role in shaping the Hub's content by providing insight from affiliate colleges' faculty. Support from the System Office and their college provides 50% release time for each Co-Director.

East Hub:

The East Hub is led by Carteret and Lenoir Community Colleges, with Co-Directors Rebecca Lanier and Kelly Sorenson. East Hub affiliate colleges are: Bladen, Brunswick, Cape Fear, Coastal Carolina, Craven, James Sprunt, Pamlico, Robeson, Sampson, and Southeastern.



Rebecca Lanier

Current Institution: Carteret Community College
Years Teaching: 20 years
Courses Taught in the Last 2-3 years: Business; IT; Web; OST

What excites you about the upcoming year?

I am looking forward to working with fellow faculty to find out what their needs are regarding professional development and help them meet those needs.



Kelly Sorenson

Current Institution: Lenoir Community College
Years Teaching: 18 years
Courses Taught in the Last 2-3 years: ENG 001 to ENG 231

What would you like fellow faculty to learn or experience during the upcoming academic year?

I hope that faculty gain improved confidence in using new technologies, improved understanding of ways to assist struggling students, and improved awareness of the need for self-growth and self-care.

West Hub:

The West Hub is led by Catawba Valley and Wilkes Community Colleges, with Co-Directors Elizabeth Braun and Natasha Harris. West Hub affiliate colleges are: AB Tech, Blue Ridge, Caldwell, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Isothermal, Mayland, McDowell Tech, Mitchell, Southwestern, Surry, Tri-County, and Western Piedmont.



Dr. Elizabeth Braun

Current Institution: Catawba Valley Community College
Years Teaching: 23 years
Courses Taught in the Last 2-3 years: ENG 001 to ENG 112

What would you like fellow faculty to learn or experience during the upcoming academic year?

Educators have long been left behind when it comes to being seen as professionals. The Teaching and Learning Hubs will offer us the opportunity to engage not just as professionals, but as practitioners. Educators are involved in a practice, and the teaching and learning hubs exist to strengthen and enhance that practice.



Dr. Natasha Harris

Current Institution: Wilkes Community College
Years Teaching: 13 years
Courses Taught in the Last 2-3 years: Personal Health and Wellness; Fit and Well for Life

What excites you about the upcoming year?

I am excited to be able to share professional development opportunities and resources with fellow faculty through the Teaching & Learning Hubs. I believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for faculty to receive training and support as well as collaborate with colleagues from other colleges.