

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education
Belk Center for Community College
Leadership and Research



***Thank you to all who joined us for the 2025
Dallas Herring Lecture!***

The insights shared by Dr. Jason Wood and Sharon Decker challenged us to think differently about how we design, support and sustain pathways that help students thrive. We are grateful to our speakers, partners and participants for helping carry forward Dallas Herring's vision and continuing the work of advancing high-quality education for every learner.

[READ MORE FROM EDNC](#)



MISSED THE LECTURE?

You can still be part of the conversation!

[WATCH NOW](#)





[WATCH NOW](#)

WHO WAS DALLAS HERRING?



As the visionary leader who laid the foundation for North Carolina's community college system, W. Dallas Herring believed deeply in opening doors to opportunity for every learner. This short video highlights the legacy of Herring and how his commitment to serving every learner continues to guide our work today.

QUOTES FROM THE DAY

“In Western North Carolina we do not have the choice. We must **refresh, renew, revitalize our way of going about the work of educating and equipping students in our communities for success.**”

 **SHARON DECKER** 

“**Graduation is not the finish line; it's just the handoff.** If we truly care about student success, we can't afford to celebrate the walk across the stage and then look away.”

 **JASON WOOD, PH.D.** 

BELK CENTER ON THE GROUND

Johnston Community College: New Facility and New Partnerships



On November 7, the Belk Center visited Johnston Community College (JCC) to tour its new \$40 million, 67,000-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing Training Facility (AMTF), which provides state-of-the-art training in welding, applied engineering, machining and more within the advanced manufacturing sector — serving as a hub for regional economic and workforce development.



While on tour, JCC shared that a major announcement about the AMTF was forthcoming. Shortly after it was announced that JCC received more than \$3.6 million in Golden LEAF funding to support a strategic partnership with Vulcan Elements, a manufacturer of rare-earth magnets. JCC will train employees for the company's new Johnston County site, which is expected to bring 1,000 jobs with an average salary of nearly \$82,000 to the area.

BELK CENTER IN THE CONVERSATION

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE NC STATE BELK CENTER PRESENTERS

THURSDAY, NOV. 13 - SATURDAY, NOV. 15



Jorge Burmicky Devon Graves Catherine Hartman Jared King Oscar Miranda Tapia



Noemi Ramirez Dre'Sha Singleton Natasha Spencer Emily VanZoest

Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference

Many of our Belk Center team members traveled to Denver last month to present at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference — a gathering of scholars dedicated to advancing research in higher education.

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference

The Belk Center's Holley Nichols and Amber Lubera presented "Be Great in 8: Impact of compressed courses at North Carolina community colleges on student persistence," at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference in Seattle.

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT FALL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

NC STATE BELK CENTER PRESENTERS



HOLLEY NICHOLS

AMBER LUBERA

PRESENTING:

BE GREAT IN 8: IMPACT OF COMPRESSED COURSES AT NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON STUDENT PERSISTENCE

ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

20 North Carolina community colleges
selected as eligible to compete

Congratulations to the 20 North Carolina community colleges selected as eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. This recognition reflects exemplary student outcomes and institutional dedication. Join us in wishing them luck as they move into the next stage of the competition!

[VIEW THE FULL LIST](#)

NC COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The 2025-26 NC Community College Leadership Program (NCCCLP) cohort wrapped its first retreat at the Belk Center in late November. A record 46 participants from 37 community colleges are enrolled in this six-month, cohort-based program that provides professional learning opportunities for community college professionals. Included in their activities was participation in the Dallas Herring Lecture events, and time with leaders from community colleges and 2024-25 NCCCLP program graduates.

THANK YOU

West Hub Colleges and Co-Directors

THANK YOU
TEACHING & LEARNING WEST HUB
LEAD COLLEGES AND CO-DIRECTORS

CATAWBA VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Elizabeth Braun
West Hub Co-Director

WILKES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Natasha Harris
West Hub Co-Director

As this semester ends, we extend our sincere thanks to co-directors Dr. Elizabeth Braun with Catawba Valley Community College and Dr. Natasha Harris with Wilkes Community College for their service to the West Teaching and Learning Hub. Their leadership since 2020 has strengthened faculty development across North Carolina and contributed to statewide and national recognition of the Hubs. We are grateful for their partnership and impact.



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