

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education
Belk Center for Community College
Leadership and Research

SAVE THE DATE: 11-17-2026
2026 DALLAS HERRING LECTURE

**DALLAS
HERRING
LECTURE**  **NOVEMBER 17
2026**

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Dallas Herring Lecture will take place on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**. For more than a decade, the Dallas Herring Lecture has been “In The Conversation” across the Great 58 and this year is no exception.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year’s dynamic, thought-provoking speaker!

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[PAST LECTURES](#)

ON THE GROUND



Expanding Statewide Work to Build Sustainable Leadership and Strategic Planning Capacity

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The Belk Center is advancing its work to support North Carolina's rural community colleges through a new three-year program, made possible by support from **Ascendium Education Group**.

Beginning in summer 2026, this work will focus on supporting North Carolina's rural workforce and expanding economic mobility across the state by strengthening leadership capacity and strategic planning at rural community colleges. This effort ensures these institutions are better aligned with local labor market needs, directly impacting student economic mobility.

Institute on Community College Student Onboarding and First-Year Success

September 9-10, 2026 | Columbia, South Carolina

The Belk Center is teaming up with the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition for the [Institute on Community College Student Onboarding and First-Year Success](#). This two-day, in-person professional development event is designed for community college professionals who support students as they transition into college and navigate their first year. This institute will explore trends, research, and strategies to strengthen existing practices or develop new practices that enhance student onboarding, engagement, retention and first-year success.

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AmeriHealth Caritas Bridge Pilot - Evaluation Partner

The Belk Center was proud to be named the evaluation partner in a partnership between **NC Community College System** and **AmeriHealth Caritas** to launch the AmeriHealth Caritas Bridge Pilot, a bold new initiative to address urgent healthcare workforce shortages in rural areas and communities with high Medicaid enrollment.

The Bridge Pilot program will support up to 1,000 students



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earning short-term healthcare credentials in critical roles, including certified nursing assistants (CNAs), emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and phlebotomy technicians. It marks the first adaptation of the Boost framework — extending the same wraparound supports available to degree-track students to those pursuing short-term credentials.

The Belk Center is also the evaluation partner for Boost — the first statewide replication of the CUNY ASAP model, a nationally acclaimed and evidence-based program that has proven its ability to increase three-year community college graduation rates.

IN THE CONVERSATION



Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program Rising Presidents Fellowship

The Belk Center congratulates three North Carolina community college leaders selected for the 2026-27 cohort of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Rising Presidents Fellowship! The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship is a year-long executive leadership experience that brings together a reform-minded group of up to 40 aspiring community college presidents.

Congratulations!

Forsyth Technical Community College

Paula Dibley

*Chief Officer of Student
Success and Strategic
Innovation*

Alamance Community College

Justin Snyder

*Senior Vice President Student
Learning and Workforce
Development*

Isothermal Community College

Greg Thomas

*Vice President for Academic
and Student Affairs*

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THE 5P FRAMEWORK: BRAIDING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

WWW.NCASFAA.COM/TRAINING

The 5P Framework: Braiding Resources to Support Students

How can colleges better align resources to support adult learners?

Last month, Belk Center presenters Drs. Audrey J. Jaeger and Sarah Deal were featured in a webinar hosted by the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators on how colleges are using public messaging, partnerships, processes, pathways and proximity to better serve adult learners, veterans and continuing education students — drawing on recent insights from the Belk Center.

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CAROL DURHAM '09EDD RECEIVES 2025 GOV. JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER, JR., AWARD



Carol Durham '09EDD, an alum of the NC State College of Education, was named the winner of the 2025 Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service.

The award recognizes faculty who exemplify the UNC System's commitment to service and community engagement.

Now retired, Durham shared that she drew on lessons she learned from faculty in the College of Education throughout her own career as an educator.

A class that left a lasting impression was one held by W. Dallas Herring Professor of Community College Education and Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research Executive Director Audrey J. Jaeger on the day after the Sept. 11 attacks.

“Rather than canceling class, she brought us together with remarkable care and compassion, creating space for us to share our shock and grief. That experience left a lasting impression on me about the power of presence and empathy in education,” Durham said.

Congratulations, Carol, from all of us here at the Belk Center!

READ MORE

HAPPY NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY



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NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

June 6 was National Higher Education Day! We want to celebrate the leaders, educators, and institutions working to expand opportunity and transform lives through higher education. We are proud to work alongside North Carolina's Great 58 community colleges and higher education partners to advance leadership and student success. Together, we are building stronger institutions and creating pathways for learners of all ages to thrive.



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706 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603