

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education
Belk Center for Community College
Leadership and Research

LAUNCHING THE ADULT LEARNER LAB



Building on its commitment to reshaping postsecondary possibilities for adult learners, the Belk Center has recently launched the Adult Learner Lab (ALL). Designed as a hub for innovation, the ALL bridges rigorous research and practitioner collaboration to help postsecondary institutions across North Carolina and the nation accelerate strategies that increase access, shorten time-to-credential and foster economic mobility for adult learners.

Rooted in campus realities, the ALL serves as partner – working alongside colleges, funders and state agencies to redesign public messaging, partnerships, processes, pathways and proximity so adult learners earn credentials of value and receive the personalized support they deserve from enrollment to completion.

We are ALL in to Support Adult Learners!

LEARN MORE

IN THE CONVERSATION

Inaugural Strategic Planning Institute



SPI Fellows (left to right): Jonathan Tyndall, Carteret Community College; Dr. Shakeena White, James Sprunt Community College; Dr. Terri Lee, Johnston Community College; Dr. Carmen Nunalee, Stanly Community College; Dr. Joel D. Welch, Western Piedmont Community College

On July 23 and 24, the Belk Center hosted the inaugural Strategic Planning Institute in Raleigh.

Supported by Ascendium Education Group, the Strategic Planning Institute (SPI) and Fellows Program is a year-long, cohort-based program that offers rural-serving community colleges peer learning and hands-on guidance to develop data-driven strategic plans.

By supporting leadership capacity and strategic planning across North Carolina, SPI offers tools, peer mentoring, and facilitated conversation opportunities for colleges to connect and align college and community needs.

LEARN MORE

ON THE GROUND

Strategic Plan Alignment Across North Carolina's 58 Community Colleges Shared Commitments, Local Impact



Across North Carolina, community colleges are shaping the state's future by expanding opportunities for students and strengthening the communities they serve. A meta-analysis of all 58 institutional strategic plans reveals strong, shared commitments to student success and community impact.

The Belk Center's newest research brief presents findings from a comprehensive analysis of these plans, offering a statewide snapshot and a practical tool for leaders engaged in or preparing for strategic planning.

[READ NOW](#)

Applications Open: North Carolina Community College Leadership Program

2026
2027 **NCCCLP**
COHORT APPLICATIONS

NOW OPEN

Are you a mid-level community college leader in North Carolina ready to deepen your leadership capacity, expand your professional network, and strengthen your impact across your institution and the NC Community College System?

NCCCLP is designed to support emerging and current leaders as they grow in their ability to lead teams, navigate change, and contribute meaningfully to student success and institutional excellence.

Applications for the 2026–2027 cohort are open now through August 31, 2026. Take the next step in your leadership journey and apply today.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Register Now for the 2026 Dallas Herring Lecture

**DALLAS
HERRING
LECTURE**  **2026**
NOV. 17 • 10 A.M. ET



DR. VICKI KAROLEWICS

PRESIDENT OF WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TOP 10 FINALIST, 2027 ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

**"THE VALUE AGENDA: A SYSTEMS
APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS"**

The Belk Center looks forward to welcoming Dr. Vicki Karolewics, president of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Ala., as the speaker for the 2026 Dallas Herring Lecture.

Dr. Karolewics has served as president of Wallace State Community College since 2003. During her tenure, she has led the college to national prominence, including recognition as one of the top four community colleges in the nation as a Rising Star finalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and a top 10 finalist for the 2027 Aspen Prize.

The 2026 lecture, titled "The Value Agenda: A Systems Approach to Student Success," will take place on Tuesday, November 17 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time.

Join us virtually on November 17!

[LEARN MORE](#)

[REGISTER TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY](#)

PLAN YOUR 2026-2027 PACE CLIMATE SURVEY

You track engagement, retention and performance — but if you aren't measuring your campus climate, you're missing the invisible forces driving all three.

PACE CLIMATE SURVEY

The PACE Climate Survey is a diagnostic tool built specifically for community college leaders who need to shift from a reactive to a proactive strategy. It tells you how your employees are experiencing reality right now, measuring the friction points, the unwritten rules and the actual enablers of daily



**PLAN YOUR 2026-27
CLIMATE SURVEY NOW!**

productivity.

To learn more about administering a PACE survey at your community college, email PACE_Survey@ncsu.edu

LEARN MORE



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