

2024 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

*Maximizing Our Momentum: Strategies for
Community and Economic Growth*

OCTOBER 16
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

N.C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY
FARM PAVILION
3020 McConnell Rd.
Greensboro, N.C. 27401

**NORTH CAROLINA
AGRICULTURAL AND
TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY**



AGENDA

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Registration Check-In and Networking**

9:30 – 9:40 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
James R. Martin II, Ph.D., Chancellor

9:40 – 10 a.m. **Opening Speaker**
Timothy A. Minor, MPA
Vice Chancellor of Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development

10 – 11 a.m. **“Campus Catalyst: Universities as Engines of Community Change”**

MODERATOR: Oliver M. Thomas, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor of External Affairs

PANELISTS: Tonya L. Smith-Jackson, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Judy Rashid, Ed.D., '74
Adjunct Graduate Faculty, Retired Senior Student Affairs Administrator,
Founder and President of the Care and Share Foundation

Eugene Thabo Dithane '96 and '02
Founder of EduLead Africa, CEO of the Dr. Judy Rashid Education and Leadership Center,
South Africa

Manuel C. Dudley, Ph.D.
Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Guilford Technical Community College

11 a.m. – Noon **“AI Revolution: Empowering Small Businesses & Communities
in the Digital Age”**

MODERATOR: Sean G.L. Johnson
Director of the Center of Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Innovation

PANELISTS: Juliet O. Osuji, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Management, Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics

Kenyetta Hall
Social Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Professor in Practice, School of Economics,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Olusola Odeyomi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Computer Science, College of Engineering

AGENDA

Noon – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch and Keynote Address**

Keynote Speaker: Geoff Foster '90 and '96
CEO and President of Core Technology

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **“Tomorrow’s Workforce: Shaping the Future of Jobs”**

MODERATOR: Marvin J. Price
Executive Vice President for Economic Development, Greensboro
Chamber of Commerce

PANELISTS: Tonya Amankwatia, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Provost, Distance Education & Extended Learning

April Mason
General Manager, Plant Services, Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina

Danielle A. Harrison, Ph.D.
Executive Director, GuilfordWorks Workforce Development Board

2:30 – 3 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

Shirley J. Hymon-Parker, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

3 – 4:30 p.m. **Networking and Resource Fair**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Geoff Foster MBA '90 and '96, is the founder and president of Core Technology Molding that is the leading innovator in the plastics manufacturing industry.

Core Technology was founded in 2006, and broke ground in 2017 at Gateway Research Park South Campus, where it has since achieved triple-digit growth. The company serves prominent global clients, including Eli Lilly, Merck, and Pfizer, by providing cutting-edge solutions in injection molding and plastic manufacturing. Foster, a 25-year industry veteran, holds a U.S. patent awarded in 1999 for his process.

Additionally, Foster has contributed to talent development in his company and the industry by serving as an adjunct professor at A&T and educating youth about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through his nonprofit organization, Molding Kids for Success.

In 2020, Foster was named Greensboro Entrepreneur of the Year by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and Ernst & Young Southeast Entrepreneur of the Year. Also, Core Technology was named Small Business of the Year by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce and Small Business of the Year by North Carolina Business magazine, both in 2021.

Foster is currently an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Applied Engineering Technology where he has been teaching for 20 years. In 2016, he was invited by Chancellor Emeritus Harold Martin, Sr. to join the Board of Visitors at North Carolina A&T State University. Foster was asked to join the NC Biotech Piedmont Triad Advisory Board recently and serves as Vice-Chairman. In 2023 Foster joined the Wake Forest University Board of Visitors for the Business School.

Foster has been married 32 years to Tonya Foster, who is the vice president with Core Technology. They have two children, and their daughter Daphne graduated from Clemson and teaches in Charleston, S.C. While their son Jeremiah graduated from North Carolina A&T and works in business development with Core Technology. The couple has three endowments at A&T for the following: College of Science and Technology students, football and baseball players. In addition, the couple started an endowment at Wake Forest University School of Business MBA Program for an Aggie alumni that wants to pursue.



SPEAKERS



JAMES R. MARTIN, II, CHANCELLOR

James R. Martin II, Ph.D., was elected as the 13th chancellor of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University on June 21, 2024, by a vote of the University of North Carolina System Board of Governors, following his nomination by UNC System President Peter Hans.

Martin previously served as vice chancellor for STEM Research and Innovation at the University of Pittsburgh, where he drove transformative initiatives ranging from developing the university's core STEM landscape to leading research strategy and development for Pitt's four regional campuses around Pennsylvania.

Focused on enhancing Pitt's \$1.3 billion research portfolio and expanding STEM access, he led collaborations that foster research growth, built innovation ecosystems and connected rural areas to city centers via urban-rural research bridges. As a senior advisor and thought leader, he influenced national action from the White House to major funding agencies to think tanks. He was a board member for Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority and a foundational advisor for Neighborhood 91 at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Before the vice chancellor role, Martin served the University of Pittsburgh as the U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering. Under his leadership, Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering achieved unprecedented milestones, logging record research expenditures, doctoral and first-year student enrollment and diversity in faculty and student representation. He also led the Swanson School to best-ever retention and graduation rates and annual giving participation rates, as well as ushering in novel industry and government partnerships, including relationships with national labs. He played a pivotal role in the university's COVID-19 response, co-chairing the central task force with the provost.

Prior to Pittsburgh, Martin was Clemson University's Bob Benmosche Professor and Chair of the Glenn Department of Civil Engineering. In that role, he led development of new curricula and degree programs, fostered record research growth and produced innovative industry partnerships. He chaired the strategic plan for the engineering college, successfully advocated for expansion of regional innovation campuses and served as founding director of the Risk Engineering and Systems Analytics Institute, a pioneering collaboration between academia and industry.

Before Clemson, Martin served more than two decades at Virginia Tech as a professor of civil engineering and six years as a university center director. He built an international reputation for his work in geotechnical earthquake and risk engineering, research that had a significant impact on national building codes. Leading global field teams following major earthquakes, Martin contributed to field studies in Turkey, Japan and throughout the United States while serving as director of the Disaster Risk Management Institute at Virginia Tech. He has provided international engineering consulting for nearly 100 firms and government agencies on major infrastructure projects.

Martin earned a B.S. in civil engineering from The Citadel. He completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering at Virginia Tech. He has received numerous national, state, and university awards for research, teaching, scholarship, and service, including the American Society of Civil Engineer's Norman Medal, the highest honor for published work in his field.

He was inducted into Virginia Tech's Civil Engineering Department's Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2015. His dedication to broadening participation, fostering innovative collaborations, and regional engagement continues to shape STEM education, research, and innovation.

SPEAKERS



Shirley Hymon-Parker, Ph.D. is the interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University. She manages the college's \$45.8 million research portfolio, four departments, and more than 1,100 students. She previously served as the college's associate dean for research from 2018 -2022. Her research activities include issues surrounding childhood obesity; the value of undergraduate research; and rural entrepreneurship. She has served as chair of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy for American Public and Land-grant Universities and the 1890 Association of Research Directors; served as director at large of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; and been a member of the Policy Board of Directors of the Board on Agriculture Assembly.

Hymon-Parker earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from North Carolina Central University; a master's degree in apparel design from Cornell University; and a doctoral certificate in gerontology, as well as her doctorate in education policy, planning and administration, from the University of Maryland - College Park.



Timothy Minor, MPA is the Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is an accomplished, strategic, and innovative leader in higher education, with extensive experience in advancement, engagement, and business partnerships. As vice chancellor, he works with corporate partners to launch new educational opportunities, foster public-private collaboration, and advance research programs to create meaningful outcomes for students, faculty, and corporations. The office also supports economic development efforts for the state of North Carolina and the Piedmont Triad region by actively recruiting companies and promoting university-industry partnerships.

Prior to his tenure at the A&T, Minor served as chief development officer and senior vice president of the V Foundation for Cancer Research, where he led the major and principal gift fundraising efforts for the national non-profit. From 2013 - 2021, he served as the vice president for university advancement for the University of North Carolina System, where he was responsible for administrative direction and support for external funding for the multi-campus UNC System, which is composed of all 16 of North Carolina's public universities, as well as the NC School of Science and Mathematics, the nation's first public residential high school for gifted students. In Minor final three years, the UNC System and its institutions raised more than \$1 billion annually.

Minor received a B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a Master of Public Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

MODERATORS AND PANELISTS



April Mason was named general manager of plant services at Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina (TBMNC) in March 2022. The plant, located in Liberty, N.C., is Toyota's first battery manufacturing facility globally. With an investment of \$13.9 billion, TBMNC will employ 5,100 and have 14 production lines delivering hybrid electric, plug-in hybrid electric, and battery electric lithium-ion batteries in 2025. In this role, Mason will oversee production control, facilities, and local business planning and coordinate with various regional functional teams related to battery business establishment.

Mason joined Toyota in 1994 as a team member relations representative at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky. Mason transitioned to human resources organizational development in 2001, where she led the talent review system implementation for Toyota Motor North America as the general manager of talent development. Most recently, Mason served as the general manager of administration for Toyota's engine plant, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama.

Before joining Toyota, Mason worked for Ford Motor Company and Marathon Oil.

Mason holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in labor and employee relations from the University of Cincinnati. She currently serves on the board of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Girls, Inc., and is a member of the International Women's Forum.



Danielle A. Harrison Ph.D. is the executive director of the Guilford County Workforce Development Board and the President of the North Carolina Triad National Forum for Black Public Administrators Chapter. With 18 years of experience in workforce and people development, she began her career with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, fostering her passion for supporting personal and professional growth. She has taught and developed workforce curricula at Piedmont Triad higher education institutions including NC A&T, where she served as the Field & Clinical Experience Coordinator and PRAXIS I Facilitator in the College of Education.

Harrison also worked as a Health and Human Services Training and Quality Manager, where she trained and provided strategic planning and workforce analyses. Notable honors include the 2022 Triad Business Journal 40 Under 40 Honoree, and 2024 Black Business Ink Honoree. Harrison is a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Harrison is a graduate of Guilford Technical Community College, Guilford College, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and Northcentral University, including two undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, a master's degree in adult education, and a doctorate degree in general education administration.



Eugene Thabo Dithane is the Founder of EduLead Africa, a non-governmental education and leadership organization of South Africa, and served as the founder and chief building engineer of the newly constructed Dr. Judy Rashid Education and Leadership Center located in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa, where he presently serves as the chief executive officer.

Dithane is also one of the founders of BSTEP (Black Science, Technology and Engineering Professionals), an advocacy mouthpiece for internship training. The organization succeeded in raising about R6 million rands for internship stipends. Thabo hosted a national government youth career day in 2007 for about 10,000 young persons and other youth-based upliftment programs such as ART Festivals, Entrepreneurial, and various Small Business Forums, etc.

Dithane received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1996, and a master's degree in agricultural economics in 2002 from North Carolina A&T State University. He received a certificate in project management from University of Pretoria (South Africa) in 1998 and the Bachelor of Law (LLB) at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in 2016.



Juliet Osuji, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of management at North Carolina A&T State University. Her research area seeks to understand different institutional barriers that hinder firm development, as well as how firms navigate through these institutional barriers to develop strategies for survival and growth.

She has won several best paper awards for her research, has earned multiple research grants, and has several high-quality publications in her field, such as Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, Journal of Business Research, Journal of Small Business Management, and International Business Review.



Judy Nazirah Rashid, Ph.D. serves as the chairperson of the Board of Advisors for the DJR Education and Leadership Center named in her honor and located in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. She has been involved in education since the tender age of 21, as a teacher and school principal (K-12), senior university student affairs administrator, and university faculty on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her research interests center around conflict management and resolution, program development, governance in higher education, Indigenous learning, and socio-cultural trauma-induced learning, particularly among people of African descent.

Since 1989, Rashid has been professionally involved in conflict management education, research, and training including international collaborative dialogue with South African higher education institutions since 2002. In 2002, she established the Care and Share Foundation and for the last two decades has garnered financial and educational support for South African youth.

In 2014, Rashid retired as the associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students from her undergraduate alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University. Upon retirement, she established the Dr. Judy Rashid Scholarship Fund at A&T for newly admitted students from her hometown of Wilson, N.C. In 2018, Dr. Rashid was invited to serve as adjunct graduate faculty in the Department of Adult Education and Leadership Studies which is her present teaching involvement.

Rashid received her bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina A&T, and her doctoral degree in higher education administration from North Carolina State University. She holds certification in both interaction management and performance management from the State of North Carolina, advanced training in teaching negotiation in the organization from Harvard University, and complete course training in N.C. Law for Non-Attorney Mediators, Mediation Certification Training/N.C. Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conferences, and Mediation Certification Training from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



Kenyetta Hall, a Certified Product Owner (CSPO), and a Certified Scrum Master (CSM), is the driving force behind The Katalyst HQ, a dynamic firm that collaborates with entrepreneurs, disrupters, and organizations to develop tailored strategies for business sustainability, customized software solutions, and deepen leadership agility and career mobility. She brings over 15 years of experience in the product management and organizational sustainability space, spanning diverse sectors. Her expertise includes strategic business planning, product development/strategy/expansion, and digital transformation for leading companies such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC and Fidelity Investments. Her journey in the corporate world has been punctuated by pivotal roles within startups, where she's contributed to the inception and growth of startups, supported the formation of founding teams, and acted as an advisor and consultant to early-stage founders.

Hall is the social entrepreneur-in-residence and professor in practice for the esteemed Shuford Program within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Economics. In this role she leverages her insights to nurture the next generation of business leaders teaching Brand for Social Impact.

2024 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT



Lovelle McMichael, M.Div., M.Ed. is the director of community engagement at North Carolina A&T State University. McMichael previously served as the assistant director of the Center for Community Engagement at High Point University. There, he oversaw the student-led volunteer center, was the program director for the AmeriCorps VISTA cohort, and collaborated with more than 14 community partners within the city of High Point. He previously managed Turning Point Youth Facility, a comprehensive residential program which integrated prevention and intervention services for young men in foster care. He is also the senior pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist Church in High Point, N.C. He serves as a commissioner on the One High Point Commission, which seeks reparations for African American citizens of High Point.

McMichael earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Millersville University, a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Phoenix, and a teaching certificate in African American Studies from the Arizona Department of Education. He also holds a master's degree in divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity and completed the Chaplain Residency Program at Moses Cone Hospital in 2022. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in leadership studies at North Carolina A&T.



Manuel Dudley, Ph.D. is the vice president of workforce and continuing education at Guilford Technical Community College. His division prepares students to be "T.I.T.A.N.S. of the Workforce" in Transportation, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, and Trade careers. Prior to being promoted into his current role, Dudley served as dean of the Greensboro Campus at GTCC for ten years, which offered short-term training courses, certificates, and degree programs in Mechatronics Engineering, HVAC, Machining, Computerized Numerical Controls manufacturing, and Adult Education. He volunteers his time on various community boards such as the Guilford Workforce Development Board of Directors and received the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Connector Medal for Community Leadership in 2019.

Dudley received BS, MS, and Ed.S. degrees from UNC-Greensboro and a doctorate in Leadership Studies from North Carolina A&T.



Marvin J. Price serves as the executive vice president of economic development for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, representing Guilford County and Greensboro. Under his leadership, he has facilitated over \$15 billion in capital investments and the creation of more than 9,900 jobs. His strategic collaborations with corporate executives, site selectors, and developers have led to major successes, including projects with Toyota Battery Manufacturing, Procter & Gamble, Boom Supersonic, and Honeywell, among others.

Before taking on his role in Greensboro, Price held key positions at the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, Spire, and the Birmingham Business Alliance, where his efforts resulted in significant economic impacts, including securing \$250 million in investments and creating 2,000 jobs. His contributions across these regions have cemented his reputation as a transformative leader in economic development.

Marvin's achievements have earned him numerous accolades, including the 2024 Mid-Size Deal of the Year and recognition on the Business North Carolina Power List. He is also a two-time recipient of the DCI 40 Under 40 award and holds a master's degree in community planning from Auburn University. His continued dedication to economic success continues to shape and grow the communities he serves.



Oliver M. Thomas, Ph.D., is the associate vice chancellor of external affairs at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is a gifted servant-leader with 17+ years of experience in preparing future leaders, strategic planning, and community building in the public and ecclesial sector. He has held roles in higher education as a faculty member and administrator.

Prior to serving over external affairs, Thomas taught African American History in the Department of History and Political Science at North Carolina A&T. As the AVC of External Affairs, his primary responsibility is to develop and enhance relationships with local, regional, state, federal, and elected officials, as well as key stakeholders, alumni, and the community at large. He strives to promote North Carolina A&T so that representatives and leaders have a greater understanding of the university's values and its impact on the City of Greensboro, the State of North Carolina, the United States, and the world.

Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in political science from North Carolina A&T, a master's degree in divinity from Wake Forest University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in educational studies with a concentration in cultural foundations from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Olusola T. Odeyomi, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of computer science at North Carolina A&T State University. He is a member of the IEEE Information Theory Society and the IEEE Computer Science Society. He is the author of numerous high-ranked journal papers and conferences. He is a frequent reviewer for numerous journals, including IEEE and ACM. He also has served as a technical committee member for numerous conferences. His research interests include trustworthy machine learning, cybersecurity, wireless communication, and quantum information security.

Odeyomi received his bachelor's and master's degrees in electronic and electrical engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, and a doctorate degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Wichita State University.



Sean G.L. Johnson is the professor and director of the Center of Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEE&I) at North Carolina A&T State University. He is a versatile, innovative professional with proven abilities in business development, financial administration and project management. He spent several years in banking working in corporate finance, honing his financial analysis and deal structuring skills.

Prior to working at A&T, Johnson led the launch of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses at Cincinnati State. This business education initiative is designed to provide small business owners with access to education, capital, and to a network to help them grow their businesses and create jobs.

Johnson received a master's degree in Ministerial Leadership from Wesleyan Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, a Master of Management from Northwestern University, and a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from Morehouse College.

An avid lifelong learner, Sean holds the PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP)®, ITIL® Foundations, and Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certified (SSYBC)™ credentials and has completed numerous continuing education courses.



Tonya Amankwatia, Ph.D. is the assistant vice provost of Distance Education and Extended Learning at North Carolina A&T State University, where she oversees the extended campus future of work and lifelong learning partnerships. She is a part of the U.S. Chamber Foundation's T3 Innovation Network and UPCEA's Council for Credential Innovation, actively engaged with A&T faculty to design transformative solutions for talent pipeline challenges. She also serves on Credential Engine's Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) Advisory Group. As part of the Competency-based Education Network initiative, she collaborated with cross-sector leaders to co-design a shared vision for the Partnership for Skills Validation, positioning herself at the forefront of skills-based hiring innovations.

Amankwatia received a Ph.D. in Learning Sciences and Technology from Lehigh University.



Tonya Smith-Jackson, PhD, CPE is the provost and executive vice Chancellor for academic affairs at North Carolina A&T State University. She is an industrial and systems engineer with extensive academic leadership experience, including time as a program director at the National Science Foundation. She has worked for North Carolina A&T State University since 2013, originally as a professor and chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, as well as the founder/director of the Human Factors Analytics Laboratory and the Cyber-Human Analytics Laboratory for the Internet of Things (CHARIoT).

Dr. Smith-Jackson earned an interdisciplinary MS in Psychology and Industrial Engineering from NC State University and a Ph.D. in Psychology/Ergonomics from North Carolina State University. She earned a BA in psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill and graduated from the inaugural class of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. She is a fellow in two professional societies: The Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Her faculty positions in academia include universities and community colleges in New York, North Carolina, Virginia and Germany.



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- N.C. A&T Center of Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Innovation
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- City of GSO - Economic Development
- City of GSO - Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MWBE)
- City of GSO, Guilford County - Guilford Works Workforce Development Board
- East Greensboro NOW
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- Greensboro Chamber of Commerce
- City of Greensboro - Procurement Services
- NCInnovation



2024 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

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