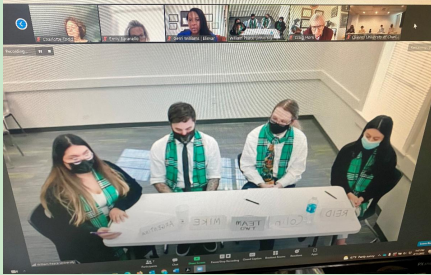


NORTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



NCICU Celebrates 11th Annual Ethics Bowl

NCICU held its annual Ethics Bowl virtually on Friday, February 11. The theme of this year's competition was Ethics in Democracy and Citizenship. Thirteen colleges participated in the event. Due to the virtual format, the event was streamlined from the usual two-day schedule to three rounds of

competition on Friday afternoon. Each Ethics Bowl team consisted of four-to-six students and campus coordinators worked with the students to prepare them for the competition. A number of business and government leaders volunteered to serve as judges and moderators for the matches. Because of the truncated competition and virtual format, there were no semifinal and final rounds this year.

Annual Meeting Held in Asheville

The Annual Meeting of NCICU's Board of Directors and the Advisory Board of the Independent College Fund was held March 28 & 29 in person for the first time in three years. Presenters brought insights on critical higher education issues on both the state and national levels.

Secretary Kody Kinsley of the NC Department of Health and Human Services emphasized that the next issue we will be facing will be mental health and that higher education will be on the front lines of addressing the issue.

A panel of North Carolina legislators including **Rep. Dean Arp**, **Sen. Deanna Ballard**, **Rep. Jon Hardister**, **Rep. Pat Hurley**, and **Rep. John Torbett**, discussed state funding priorities.

NCICU Chair **Jo Allen**, president of Meredith College, opened the evening program which celebrated 50 years of both the North Carolina Need Based Scholarship (NCNBS) and the Federal Pell Grant. Guest speaker **Dr. Barbara Mistick**, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) president, shared the historical background on Pell, while NCICU president **Hope Williams** related how the NCNBS evolved.

In the general session on Tuesday, **Dr. Mistick** reported that her priority during the pandemic was to assure equity for independent colleges and universities in Congressional funding packages. In the end, independent colleges and universities received 19% of the total pandemic aid allotted by Congress, which is the same percentage as students in our sector.

During the meeting, President Williams, acknowledged two retiring presidents: Livingstone's **Dr. Jimmy Jenkins**, and Davidson's **Dr. Carol Quillen**, and welcomed six who have recently taken office: Brevard's **Dr. Bradley Andrews**, Guilford's **Dr. Kyle Farmbry**, Salem's **Dr. Summer McGee**, Saint Augustine's **Dr. Christine Johnson**



*NCDHHS Secretary Kody Kinsey with
NCICU President Hope Williams*



*NCICU Vice President Tom West (far right)
leads the panel discussion with
(l to r) Representatives Arp, Hurley,
Hardister, Senator Ballard, and
Representative Torbett.*

News Briefs



NCICU has concluded the three-year **Transfer Pathways project** funded by a \$400,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation through the Council of

Independent Colleges. The final meeting was held March 20 and 22 at Graylyn International Conference Center in Winston-Salem with 50 NCICU and NC Community College campus representatives in attendance. **Drew Koch, Sara Koch** and **Vicki McGillin** of the Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education gave presentations on *Redesigning Transfer for Equitable Student Success*, *Advising with Strength*, and *Best Practices for Advising for Transfer Student Success*. Fourteen NCICU campuses and 14 two-year colleges (13 community colleges and Louisburg College) participated in the program which was designed to create pathways that encourage two-year college students to pursue baccalaureate degrees in liberal arts disciplines at independent colleges.

NCICU, in partnership with the University of North Carolina System, and the North Carolina Community College System, hosted a virtual 2022 **Behavioral Health Convening** on March 30-31. The event featured representatives from campuses across the state who presented ideas and shared best practices on how to help nurture healthy campus communities and resilient students. More than 30 sessions were presented during the two-day event which welcomed several hundred attendees.



NCICU's Counselor's Tour is back! The popular, week-long bus tour, which has been conducted virtually for the past two years will hit the road the week of June 20. Each year,

the tour visits one-third of our 36 campuses. This year, the 13 Eastern campuses are the Tour's focus. Counselors learn about the diversity and wealth of programs and opportunities provided by our independent colleges and universities. A limited number of slots remain on the bus. Contact Rebecca Leggett at leggett@ncicu.org or learn more [here](#).

The State office of Budget Management has approved \$775,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds for NCICU to implement the **State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)**. NCICU has been a partner in the SLDS since 2009, when the NCICU Board endorsed the system. NCICU has since participated in a multi-year federal grant to develop the state's SLDS. The goal of the project is to have better longitudinal education and workforce data available, including for policy makers, as they make decisions about the needs and funding for education from pre-K into the workforce. In February 2022, Governor Cooper signed an Executive Order creating a Governance Board for the system. The Order appoints NCICU President Williams to that Board. With the funds, NCICU will begin work on an RFP to secure a vendor to develop the platform.

Governor Cooper has awarded **\$5.4 million in GEER II** funds to NCICU campuses for Summer Accelerator Grants to encourage students who are on a degree track to take summer courses that will move them closer to their degree.

Updates from the Independent College Fund

We are pleased to have raised \$3.9M this year for scholarships, student enrichment programs, and in-kind support, which could not have been possible without our corporate and foundation partners.



During NCICU's Annual Meeting, **Thomas Varnadore** was elected Vice Chair of the Independent College Fund. Thomas serves as General Manager Sales Operations for Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc., having held roles of increasing responsibility over his 14 years there. He was recently

Gifts and Grants

First Generation Scholarship

The Fund has received a \$20,000 Scholarship Challenge Grant from The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). Fund supporters contributed more than \$27,000 in new or increased scholarship gifts to receive this match. The grant will fund scholarships for first generation college students during the 2022-2023 academic year. More than 20 donors contributed, including increased support from The Broyhill Family Foundation, The Universal Leaf Foundation, and the James E. and Mary Z. Bryan Foundation.

Faculty Student STEM Mentoring Grant

This new pilot program, funded by a \$240,000 grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, aims to develop stronger relationships between faculty and underrepresented students who are STEM majors with the primary goal of improving student

named a Triad Business Journal's 40 under 40 honoree for his business leadership and community service at Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc. and serves on a number of boards, including with the Boys and Girls Club, the High Point Chamber's Young Professionals Committee, as well as this advisory board for NCICU.

New Advisory Board Members



Jan Hartenstine
McMillan Pazdan
Smith Architecture



Molly McCormack
TIAA

retention and graduation rates. More colleges have expressed interest in participating in the program than we have spaces for in the grant, so we will be seeking additional funding to expand the program.

Science of Reading Grant

The Goodnight Educational Foundation has awarded NCICU \$1 million over two years to support implementation of the Science of Reading (SoR) initiative into the curriculum for teacher education students. NCICU has created a SoR Task Force comprised of 10 NCICU Educator Prep Program (EPP) faculty members to help guide the implementation efforts at our 31 EPPs. To date, NCICU and the SoR Task Force have obtained professional development training for 62 NCICU EPP faculty members; disseminated a literacy self-study to each EPP; and planned a Summer Faculty Institute to be held June 6 & 7 for EPP faculty teaching literacy courses.

iBelong Male Mentoring Program

The iBelong Male Mentoring program has completed its first year with participants expressing positive results from the interactions. The success of the program has led NCICU to service mark the name 'iBelong Male Mentoring Program' so we can continue to use it going forward.

Google donated up to \$10k a month in services for Google Ads to raise awareness and attract donors.

New Business Affiliates



NCICU Welcomes New Staff Members



Lexie Daniels
joined NCICU in March 2022 as assistant director of the Independent College Fund.

Lexie previously worked as a student intern at NCICU while she was a student at William Peace University. Prior to joining NCICU, Lexie worked both in corporate planning, as well as with North Carolina Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree from William Peace University.



Dr. Patsy Pierce
joined NCICU part-time in December 2021 as director of NCICU's Literacy Task Force to

implement the Science of Reading. Patsy has a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and a PhD in Special Education and Literacy from UNC. She worked as a speech-language pathologist for over 20 years.



Dr. Marilyn Sutton-Haywood joined NCICU part-time in early March 2022 as

the project director for the Faculty-Student STEM Mentoring program. Marilyn earned her undergraduate degree from NC Central University, her master's and doctoral degrees from Atlanta University, and has 42 years of experience in higher education.

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