YEAR IN REVIEW
2020-21
Vibrantly Virtual Engagement

Pictured: Participants in the 3rd Annual Engaged Scholar Writing Retreat
October 9, 2020
Featured speaker: Dr. Keisha Bentley-Edwards, Duke University
If you had told me in February 2020 - when over 250 people gathered at Elon University for the NC Campus Compact 10th Anniversary Presidents Forum and the 23rd annual PACE Faculty Conference (pictured) - that the next year would be filled with these words, I would not have believed you. What a year it has been!

I always knew our member campuses were powerful, relevant, anchor institutions committed to partnering with their local communities for transformative change, but this year has confirmed that belief in truly remarkable ways. Campuses have stepped up to the challenge both within and beyond their campuses. Last May, instead of the annual Year in Review, we simply sent a list of the ways each of our 39 member campuses were addressing the COVID crisis. Were we to update that list today, I am certain it would have tripled.

As you will see in this report, we were able to pivot to increase programming and resources to support your efforts. We are especially pleased with the outcomes from our 2020 #NCStudentsVote election engagement efforts (see the Strengthening Democracy section).

We provided funding and resources to support nonpartisan, campus-wide, voter registration, voter education and awareness, and voter mobilization.

On October 22, 2020, we convened 63 Chief Academic Affairs Officers and Chief Student Affairs Officers, from 29 campuses, for a virtual Election Scenario Planning Session. We knew, with the 2020 election being the most contentious in recent memory, there was potential for the results to be contested provoking a strong reaction from both sides of the political spectrum. We provided a framework for administrators to explore the various possible scenarios that might unfold and to discuss and develop plans on how higher education could or should respond.

2022 marks the 20th Anniversary of North Carolina Campus Compact. Our collective mission is to prepare students for civic and social responsibility, to partner with communities for positive change, and to strengthen democracy. The events of this past year - especially the COVID pandemic, the national unrest and reckoning around racial equity, the violence in DC, and the growing hostility and political polarization plaguing our nation - have illustrated the urgency, relevance, and necessity of this mission. We are glad to be your partner as we embark on the next 20 years of this critical journey together.

- Leslie
On April 14, AGB released a new Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) statement. Later in the month NC Campus Compact hosted a virtual gathering for member presidents and chancellors. Two of the authors provided an overview of the Statement then participants engaged in conversation related to the role of presidents and governing boards in addressing these critical issues. We also discussed how to leverage the Statement to support such efforts.

Presenters:
- Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, President Emerita of Kalamazoo College, Senior Consultant and Senior Fellow, AGB Consulting
- Dr. Leo Lambert, President Emeritus of Elon University

Twenty-eight NC presidents and chancellors participated in the 11th Annual Presidents Forum. Hosted by the NC Campus Compact Executive Board, the content and level of engagement was outstanding.

Topics:
- Promoting Democracy and Civic Engagement During Turbulent Times
- The Role of Higher Education in Addressing Racial Equity
- A Culture of Caring: Intentionally Love Students to Success

Guest speakers:
- Thomas A. Stith III, President, NC Community College System
- William V. Flores, former president of the University of Houston-Downtown
- Katrina S. Rogers, President of Fielding Graduate University
- Paul Pribbenow, President, Augsburg University
- Russell Lowery-Hart, President, Amarillo College

12th Annual Presidents Forum
Host: President Nido Qubein
High Point University
&
NCCC 20th Anniversary Celebration
February 9, 2022
Community of Practice, Inquiry & Learning (COPIL)

In February 2021, COPIL published a Primer on the Benefits and Value of Civic & Community Engagement in Higher Education. This publication assembles evidence of how civic and community engagement – when done well - contributes to the overarching goals of higher education and provides a tool to aid in deepening the practice and scholarship of engagement. The document is divided into 17 topics related to key institutional and community priorities.

Engaged Faculty Scholar

In July 2020 we welcomed our first Engaged Faculty Scholar representing a community college, Julie Trotter, an English and Humanities professor at Alamance Community College. For her one-year term she has been working on a project to promote more student research and civic engagement amongst community college students. This includes development of a Guidebook on Engaged Student Research to be accessible to faculty advisors and students at ACC and throughout the entire 58 NC Community College System.

Julie Trotter
Alamance Community College

3rd Annual Engaged Scholar [Virtual] Writing Retreat

On October 9, 2020 twenty-five scholars – from eight universities and two community partners – attended this gathering for faculty and administrators who are involved in community-engaged research and writing. During the six-hour virtual gathering, participants engaged in writing as well as discussions on writing strategies.

Special guest, Dr. Keisha Bentley-Edwards, shared tips and suggestions for how she approaches community-engaged research and writing. Dr. Bentley-Edwards is an Assistant Professor of General Internal Medicine and the Associate Director of Research and Director of the Health Equity Working Group at the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University.

The event was sponsored by NC Campus Compact, the Duke Office of Civic Engagement, and the Duke Service-Learning Program.

How I Write:
A Conversation with Dr. Tania Mitchell for Black Women Scholars

On May 10, 2021, eighteen Black women scholars attended this virtual conversation with Dr. Tania D. Mitchell, Associate Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development at the University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development. She discussed how she writes, what motivates her work, and the importance of community engaged scholarship in higher education.

Sponsored by NC Campus Compact and the Duke Faculty Write Program, this event is part of an ongoing effort to promote and expand the scholarship of engagement and to diversify the higher education civic and community engagement field.
Over 70 community engagement professionals attended both the August and January network meetings, representing 31 campuses. The professional development topic was "Cultivating High Quality Community-Campus Partnerships." In August we were joined by the chapter authors and several scholars discussing democratic and equitable engagement. We featured Duke University, UNC Asheville, and East Carolina University in the Bright Spots session. In January we discussed "Community Partnerships in the Time of COVID: Lessons from the Fall" through a series of breakout discussions. A panel of administrators from NC State University, UNC Pembroke, Durham Technical Community College and Wake Forest University discussed tools and best practices for building and maintaining partnerships." Faculty from Duke Service-Learning provided a deep dive into their service-learning Critical Commitments’ Tool.

Over 100 civic engagement professionals and community partners, representing 29 colleges and universities in two states (plus Brazil!), participated in this daylong virtual gathering. Participants chose from among nine workshops on topics such as Embedding Civic Engagement in the DNA of Your Institution to Fostering Intentional Community Partnerships: The Link between Campus and Community.

Workshops were facilitated by staff and faculty from Central Piedmont Community College, Elon University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Pembroke, Wake Forest University, and NC Campus Compact staff.

Over 250 faculty, staff, administrators, and community partners, from 32 campuses in 6 states, attended our annual conference which seeks to grow and deepen the practice and scholarship of higher education civic and community engagement. The virtual gathering included 20 dynamic workshops and mini-session presentations plus a dynamic keynote address "We are not the same, but we are not separate: Awakening partnerships to the work of restorative practices" by Dr. Emily M. Janke, Director, Institute for Community & Economic Engagement and Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, UNC Greensboro, and Dr. Michael A. Hemphill, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, UNC Greensboro. Hemphill received the national Campus Compact 2020 Ernest Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement.
2020 Community Impact Student Awards

On November 13 we recognized 20 community-engaged student leaders during a powerful virtual ceremony in which each winner shared why engagement matters to them.

Alamance Community College - Jennifer Furman
Appalachian State University - Lauren Moody
Duke University - Alejandra Gomez
Durham Technical Community College - Gaebryl Vives
East Carolina University - Seth Lemon
Elizabeth City State University - Tatiana Keo
Elon University - Johanna Crump
Guilford College - Exel Valle Estrada
North Carolina Central University - Tymia Atkinson
Queens University of Charlotte - Emily Sears
UNC Asheville - London Newton
UNC-Chapel Hill - De'Ivyion Drew
UNC Greensboro - Kalonji Jegede-Roberts
UNC Pembroke - Kamren Lewis
UNC Wilmington - Jessica Scudella
Warren Wilson College - Zoe Renner
Wayne Community College - Sabrina Blackmon
Western Carolina University - Rebecca Hart
William Peace University - Jenica Myers

2020 Barnhill Civic Trailblazer
Bryan Thompson, Warren Wilson College

This award is presented annually to an innovative student who has deepened campus efforts to address community issues. A senior majoring in creative writing, Bryan was recognized for tireless commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion. Campus-based leadership positions have included serving as Student Crew Leader for The Wilson Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Office (WIDE) and President of the Black Student Union. Off campus Bryan is an active member of Black AVL Demands, an intergenerational collective of Black leaders in Asheville calling for justice and institutional reform. Bryan also serves as the Youth Program Coordinator for Youth Outright WNC a nonprofit organization that provides LGBTQIA+ Youth in Western North Carolina with resources, support, and advocacy. Bryan has also channeled art and scholarship to support community engagement. One example is co-founding the Mothlight Book Club, a community book club in which participants seek understanding through conversation and self-exploration.
We presented the annual Community Engagement Awards on February 10, 2021 during the virtual PACE Conference. This is only the second time, since we launched the awards in 2006, that two winners were from the same campus.

**Civic Engagement Professional of the Year**

Marianne Magjuka, EdD  
Executive Director  
Office of Civic & Community Engagement  
Wake Forest University

**Engaged Faculty Award**

Steven M. Virgil, JD  
Professor  
Wake Forest University  
School of Law

**Community Partner Award**

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Alamance County  
Campus Partner: Elon University
In summer 2020 we launched this two-year initiative as part of our ongoing effort to educate students for civic and social responsibility and strengthen democracy. Our efforts focused on nonpartisan election engagement and civil discourse and dialogue. This initiative is funded primarily by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation with additional support from the Students Learn, Students Vote Coalition (SLSV), and the Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP).

As a partner organization of the Ask Every Student initiative, which provides a framework to integrate voter participation efforts broadly across campuses with the goal of full participation, we received SLSV funding to host a fulltime Election Engagement Coordinator who supported member campuses between September and December. We provided $500 mini-grants to 12 member campuses to engage in non-partisan student voter engagement activities.

Election Engagement Sustainability Fellows (EESF)

The EESF supported faculty and staff on four campuses to promote voting and create sustainable structures to ensure long-term election engagement. Each campus received $900 to support these efforts.

Participating institutions:

- Appalachian State University
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Guilford College
- Warren Wilson College

Social Media Campaign

In August 2020 we launched the #NCStudentsVote social media campaign inviting our member campuses to post about their election engagement activities using the hashtag. We also posted election engagement info, resources, and best practices.

2020 Election Engagement Grantees

Central Piedmont Community College
Davidson County Community College
East Carolina University
Elizabeth City State University
Elon University
Lenoir-Rhyne University
NC Central University
Queens University of Charlotte
UNC Asheville
UNC Pembroke
UNC Wilmington
Wake Forest University

On September 11 and 12, 169 attendees from 31 campuses participated in this virtual convening focused on non-partisan, campus voter engagement. The keynote speakers were Karen Brinson Bell, the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Elections, and Dr. Nancy Thomas, Director of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University. Partners of the NC Campus Voting Coalition facilitated “Hot Topics in Voting” breakout sessions. Several campuses shared their campus voting plans during the Votes and Ballots Election Engagement Competition. Three schools won cash prizes: Guilford College, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UNC Charlotte.

Through the Whova conference app participants engaged in multiple social networking opportunities.
Building on the February 2020 Civic Engagement Institute “Engagement 2.0: Civics, Civility, and Civil Discourse” which featured immersive workshops in seven dialogue methods, in summer 2020 we intensified our efforts to introduce member campuses to additional dialogue models and approaches. We hosted a Virtual Dialogue Series, film screenings, and provided $700 mini-grants to ten institutions to implement these models on their campuses.

### Civil Discourse & Dialogue Grantees
- Campbell University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- NC State University
- Piedmont Community College
- UNC Asheville
- UNC Pembroke
- Wayne Community College
- William Peace University
- Winston-Salem State University

### Virtual Dialogue Series

**Braver Discussions:**
**Train-the-Trainer Session**  
March 9, 2021  
Topic: “Free Speech and Inclusion in Higher Education.”

**Braver Angels: Depolarizing Within Workshops**  
October 2 & 9, 2020

**Bring it to the Table: Viewing, Discussion, and Demonstration**  
September 3, 2020

**Democracy Cafe/Socrates Cafe: Dialogue for Democracy**  
July 21, 2020

**Braver Angels and With Malice Toward None Overview**  
July 9, 2020

### The Reunited States Documentary Film Screenings
The week of February 22, 2021, we sponsored viewings of this documentary which highlights several Americans seeking to be depolarizers who bridge political and racial divides. Over 300 students, from 20 campuses, participated.

On February 25, NC Campus Compact facilitated a conversation with the filmmaker Ben Rekhi and one of the subjects, Steven Olikara, the founder and director of the Millennial Action Project.

### Supporting Free Speech for All on Campus
On April 13, 2021 we hosted this virtual presentation and conversation with Dr. Jonathan Friedman, director of free expression and education at PEN America.

The presentation drew on the nuanced history of free speech to present a vision of “free speech for all,” a belief in both upholding free speech and ensuring that people from all backgrounds have opportunities to speak, be heard, and be respected.

This event was part of the “Democracy Never Sleeps” Week of Action organized by the NC Campus Voting Coalition to encourage democratic engagement beyond elections. Other events included a Civic Trivia Night and “Our Voices Matter” Youth Town Hall.

### Participating campuses:
- Appalachian State University
- Campbell University
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Davidson College
- East Carolina University
- Elon University
- Fayetteville State University
- Guilford College
- Guilford Technical Community College
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Methodist University
- NC State University
- Piedmont Community College
- Queens University of Charlotte
- UNC Asheville
- UNC-Chapel Hill
- UNC Pembroke
- UNC Wilmington
- Western Carolina University
- Winston-Salem State University
AmeriCorps VISTA members go where they are needed with passion and perseverance to be a catalyst for change. National service is a critical component of the strength of communities; therefore, since 2003 North Carolina Campus Compact has sponsored an AmeriCorps VISTA project. We currently host VISTAs through the NC Afterschool Corps and the NC Hunger Corps and our member campuses serve as host sites for our VISTAs to complete their year of service across the state.

In 2020, our VISTAs were instrumental in responding to the challenges of COVID-19. Our VISTAs ensured students, staff, faculty, and community members continued to have access to food and developed innovative strategies to effectively and safely distribute food while physical distancing requirements remained in place. Our VISTAs also led the way to connect students to virtual volunteering opportunities with community organizations and to ensure partnerships with the organizations continued to grow and strengthen even as students were away from campus.

Between 2019-2020 we hosted 10 Afterschool Corps members and 10 Hunger Corps members. Over that time they facilitated the following capacity building outcomes:

- **# of Volunteers Recruited**
  
  2,737

- **Value of Cash Resources Leveraged**

  $180,742

- **Value of In-Kind Resources Leveraged**

  $211,208

NC Hunger Corps member Hannah Fraser shown here with student leaders from Wingate University preparing for a food distribution event. Hannah mobilized volunteers to hold a pop-up food pantry for students staying on campus during the extended winter break from November-January.

Pictured is NC Afterschool Corps VISTA Makenzie Bennett with Math Leaders from the Marvelous Math Club a partnership between UNC Asheville, the Asheville Housing Authority, and Asheville City Schools. Makenzie supported access to continued learning for the math leaders during Covid-19 through the PODS model.
In spring 2020 we partnered with Food Lion, LLC grocery stores again to host the Collegiate Hunger Challenge. Twelve schools were competing for up to $22,000 in prizes to support efforts – on campus and in the local community - to raise awareness about and address food insecurity and hunger. Participating institutions received a $500 activity fund and selected one or two students to serve as MVP Hunger Ambassadors to help facilitate the campaign. It was scheduled to run from January 26 – April 25. Due to COVID-19 we ended the campaign in March. However, thanks to the graciousness of Food Lion, we provided each participating campus with a $1000 prize, rather than just the five prizes to the top winners. Also, all the student Hunger Ambassadors received their $500 stipend.

Special congratulations to North Carolina A & T State University who also won the social media prize: a $1000 gift card to support their on-campus food pantry.

In March 2020, with the remaining funds from Food Lion, we provided $250 gift cards to 13 additional member campuses to help them stock their on-campus food pantries and toiletry closets to support students remaining on campuses and/or who lived locally and had need.

Appalachian State University
Davidson College
Davidson County Community College
Durham Technical Community College
Fayetteville State University
Guilford Technical Community College
Methodist University
NC Central University
Queens University of Charlotte
UNC Asheville
UNC-Chapel Hill
UNC Wilmington
Warren Wilson College

Pictured: Joshua White, an MVP Hunger Ambassador at NC A & T State University, at the Pantry Pop-Up they used to promote the competition and serve students.
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