



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

## Carolina Engagement Council Newsletter May 2022

### Next Meeting – September 20, 2022

**Please note that we are canceling the meeting scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>.** We have determined there is no compelling reason for the Carolina Engagement Council to meet this summer. A cancellation of that calendar invitation will be sent soon.

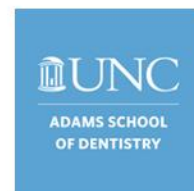
We will continue to update you with robust newsletters over the summer and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We will pick up our conversation from April on “What’s Next for the CEC?” at that time.

### Carolina Across 100 Community Applications are Underway

We are thrilled to be in the midst of the “Our State, Our Work” application review process. Communities from across North Carolina sent great applications and we already see the potential for powerful partnerships with applications that involve more than one third of the state.

### Meet the Review Panel

- **Levy Brown**, representing the North Carolina Community College System
- **Tracie Ford**, representing NC Works Commission, NC Department of Commerce
- **Lamont Lowery**, representing UNC CEC, UNC School of Dentistry
- **Senemeht Olatunji**, representing myFutureNC
- **Kristie VanAuken**, representing North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- **Anita Brown-Graham**, representing nclIMPACT Initiative
- **Jess Dorrance**, representing nclIMPACT Initiative
- **Abigail Holdsclaw**, representing nclIMPACT Initiative



2 million by 2030.

## CEC Member Spotlight – Lamont Lowery



Lamont Lowery joined the UNC Adams School of Dentistry’s Office of Admissions and Student Life as the Assistant Dean for Student Recruitment and Engagement in July 2020. He has the critical responsibility of managing recruitment, enrollment, and retention efforts for the school. He also works to build awareness and appreciation for the ways that diversity can have a positive impact across our campus. Prior to joining UNC, Lamont served for 10 years as the director of admissions for the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine. He is a two-time alum, earning both his bachelor’s and master’s degree there.

Lamont has been quick to make an impact at UNC. He joined the CEC in January 2022 and immediately helped get to work on advising the Carolina Across 100 initiative. In addition to advising, Lamont is also part of the application review team for the “Our State, Our Work” program. As such, he is helping assess community applications and offer input on those that will be selected to participate in our first cohort. We are incredibly grateful for his time, enthusiasm, insights, and overall support of this work. Thank you, Lamont!

Photo courtesy of Adams School of Dentistry

## A Look Back – Assessing Our Progress



We have come a long way in just a very short time!

Click [here](#) to interact with our very snazzy timeline and see what has been happening since Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz’s March 2021 announcement.

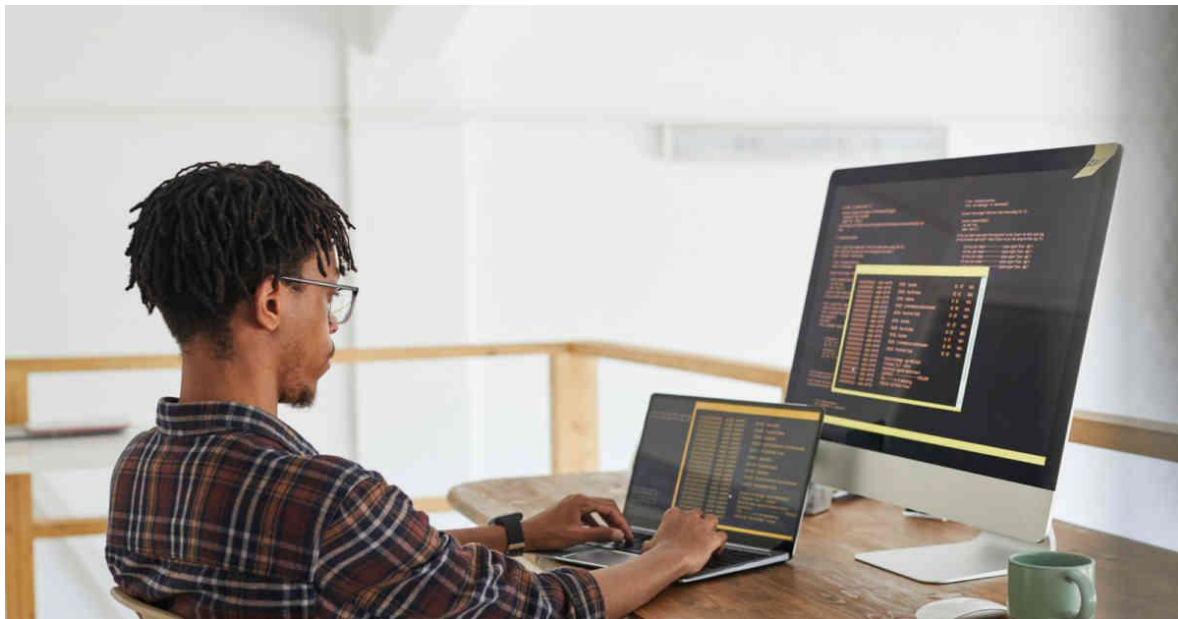
## A Look Ahead – Spotlight on Key Supports for Our State, Our Work

As we look forward to working directly with our communities, we could not be more excited about getting to partner with two industry leaders that will significantly enhance the resources offered to community collaboratives. Both **Microsoft** and **Google** have agreed to partner with CX100 to provide high-value certifications and program support to our community collaboratives. These partnerships are advantageous for both opportunity youth and employers.



- For Opportunity Youth

- Access to high-value certifications/credentials that can lead to expanded career options with living wages.
  - Certifications in high-demand skills such as data analytics, IT Automation, IT Support, project management, and UX Design
  - Pathway to high-wage employment opportunities
  - Up to 12 hours of college credit
  - Hands-on training to prepare for real-world employment tasks.
- Connections to new and existing workforce and education-related programs.
- Opportunity to share their experiences of barriers to engagement in the workforce and to inform more effective solutions and interventions.
- Improved total health and well-being due to living-wage employment



- For Employers

- Skilled potential employees certified with high-impact micro-credentials from industry leaders such as Google and Microsoft.
  - Talent pipeline created between these programs and the vacancies employers are anxious to fill
  - Recruiting tools
  - Recognition as a Google or Microsoft employer

## Student Engagement – Lessons Learned and Ongoing Opportunities

### Undergraduate Student Research

Seniors from a Public Policy capstone class recently wrapped up their work with CX100. During the spring semester, these students surveyed extant literature about employment sectors and trends with a focus on North Carolina-specific data. The literature review also covered young peoples' participation in the workforce and how the COVID-19 pandemic is shaping this rapidly-changing landscape. Additionally, the students conducted interviews with multiple employers to collect qualitative data that supplemented their research.

### Graduate Student Involvement

In June we will welcome a Master of Public Health (MPH) student, Maddie Roberts (pictured right), who will be joining us for the summer. She will help us expand the work of our Public Policy Capstone class by completing additional interviews with employers across the state. Her most significant role will be to help lay the foundation for a year-long engagement with an MPH Capstone class that will launch in the fall semester. Maddie will also assist with the design and logistics for a series of focus groups with Opportunity Youth, including completing an Institutional Review Board (IRB) application, designing a focus group protocol, and pilot-testing a focus group guide.



*Maddie Roberts*

When the MPH Capstone team joins us at the start of the fall semester, they will build upon Maddie's work by conducting Opportunity Youth focus groups. The qualitative data these students gather and analyze will provide valuable insights to service providers about the barriers to services and access points for Opportunity Youth, and how to best address these challenges and opportunities within their communities. The students will also help develop toolkits and resources for the community collaboratives that are part of our first program, as well as for others who can benefit from the lessons we learn throughout this work.

### Undergraduate Experiential Learning

Undergraduate students will soon be able to enroll in an experiential learning course that will support the community collaboratives selected for the "Our State, Our Work" program. Each collaborative's program manager will have the chance to work with undergraduate students who support fact-finding efforts, connect projects to on-campus knowledge and resources, and facilitate cross-collaborative information sharing. By enrolling in the course, students will be able to discuss the work of each of their partner collaboratives with one another. Guided by faculty who are experienced in engaged research, students will learn how to adapt social science methods to align with community purposes and capacity. The course will also provide students with the opportunity to reflect on their work and translate their skills and experience for their next career steps. This opportunity will engage students and greatly support communities as they begin the "Our State, Our Work" program. We are excited to share more with you in coming months as the course takes shape!



## Expanding Our Team

A student archivist will be joining the CX100 team to help us capture what we are doing and learning. Hope Riffie is part of the Master of Library Sciences program at UNC, and will assist with data management, create an online repository for CX100's materials, and archive pertinent news releases, emails, photos, and videos. We're excited to have access to Hope's knowledge and expertise to ensure a thoughtful and robust recording of our work together! Learn more about Hope in our student spotlight below.



*Photo credit: Jon Gardiner, UNC Chapel Hill*

## Student Spotlight

Hope Riffie, a data archivist for the Carolina Across 100 initiative, is a current graduate student in the Information and Library Science program at UNC. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English (Editing, Writing, and Media) and Studio Art from Florida State University in 2018. She has worked as a graduate assistant in the Makerspace at the Kenan Science Library, where she loves being a part of the creative community. When not working or studying, Hope enjoys learning the banjo and playing on the local bagel shop's softball team.

## Carolina Engagement Week

Now that the spring 2022 semester is over, we can take a breath and reflect on the whirlwind of activity that was the first-ever Carolina Engagement Week!

Please consider whether you'd like to be part of the planning process for next year - it would be great to have members of the Carolina Engagement Council involved from the start. Summer is also a great time to take a look at the content that was generated from this year's event - you can find recordings, stories and virtual posters at this [link](#).



## University Public Service Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the [University Public Service Awards](#)! It's not too early to think about nominating engaged faculty, staff and students from your departments for one of these awards next year!



## Tar Heel Bus Tour

It's official! This fall, once again, 70 UNC-Chapel Hill faculty members and senior administrators will embark on a journey throughout our beautiful state to connect with and learn from the communities we serve. The [Tar Heel Bus Tour](#) will kick off on Wednesday morning, October 19 and conclude on Friday evening, October 21 (over the UNC Fall Break). In those 2 1/2 days, two buses (one traveling east and one west) will cover more than a thousand miles of North Carolina, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Coast. Watch for the announcement when applications open in early June.