



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Carolina Engagement Council Newsletter August 2023

Welcome to the August edition of the Carolina Engagement Council (CEC) Newsletter! With students returning to campus this month, the academic year is already in full swing. Carolina Across 100 spent much of the summer planning for a jam-packed 2023-24. Read on for the latest updates about what's in store for the months ahead.

**Mark your calendars to join us on Wednesday, November 29
at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill!**

The "Our State, Our Work" teams are hosting "Stories Brought to Life: A Statewide Summit on NC Opportunity Youth."

Learn about the research, the work, the progress, and the lived experiences of Opportunity Youth in North Carolina. The impact of improving outcomes for these young people reaches across communities and affects economic development, workforce readiness, health, and more.

We will distribute a registration link soon – we can't wait to see you there!



CAROLINA ACROSS



*Sharing the stories of
youth successes, state-wide
challenges, local progress,
and the work still ahead.*



November 29th

Location: The Friday Center in Chapel Hill

A Statewide Summit on Re-engaging Opportunity Youth



“Our State, Our Wellbeing: Partnering to Prevent Suicide” Announces Participating Community Collaboratives

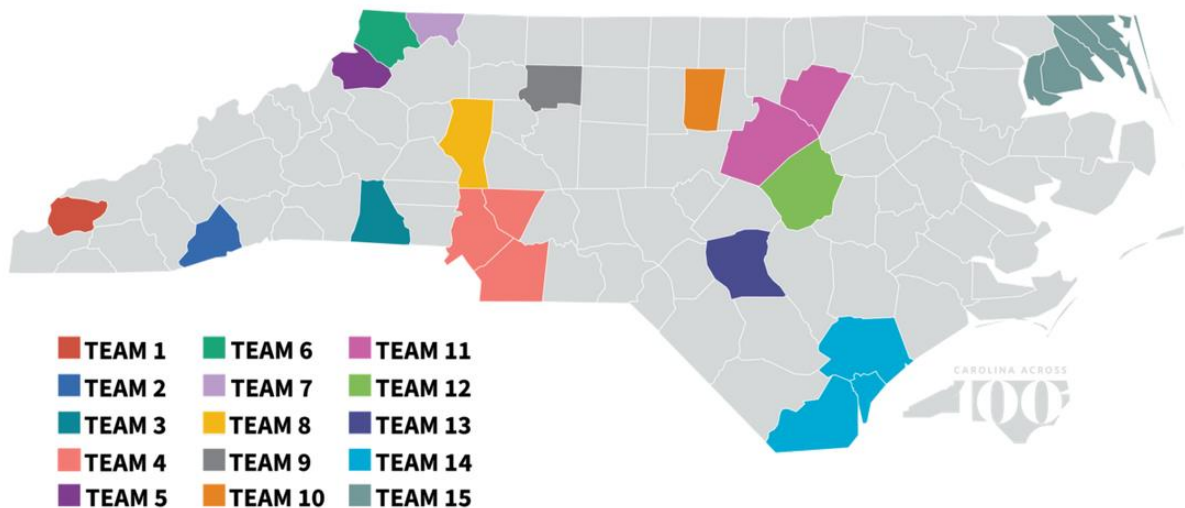
Earlier this year, we shared with the CEC our plans to partner with UNC’s Suicide Prevention Institute to launch Program 2 of Carolina Across 100, focused on suicide prevention and mental health.

Carolina Across 100 publicly launched the new program, Our State, Our Wellbeing, in June.

After two months of promoting the program, recruiting applicants, and reviewing submissions, we are excited to announce that 15 communities have been chosen to participate in Our State, Our Wellbeing over the next year.



The selected communities cover a total of 24 counties from every region of the state, 17 of which are new to Carolina Across 100.



We’re looking forward to getting started working with these collaboratives. The teams will join us for a kick-off webinar on August 31 and travel to Chapel Hill for their first in-person forum October 24 and 25.

Read the official announcement and see the participating communities [here](#).

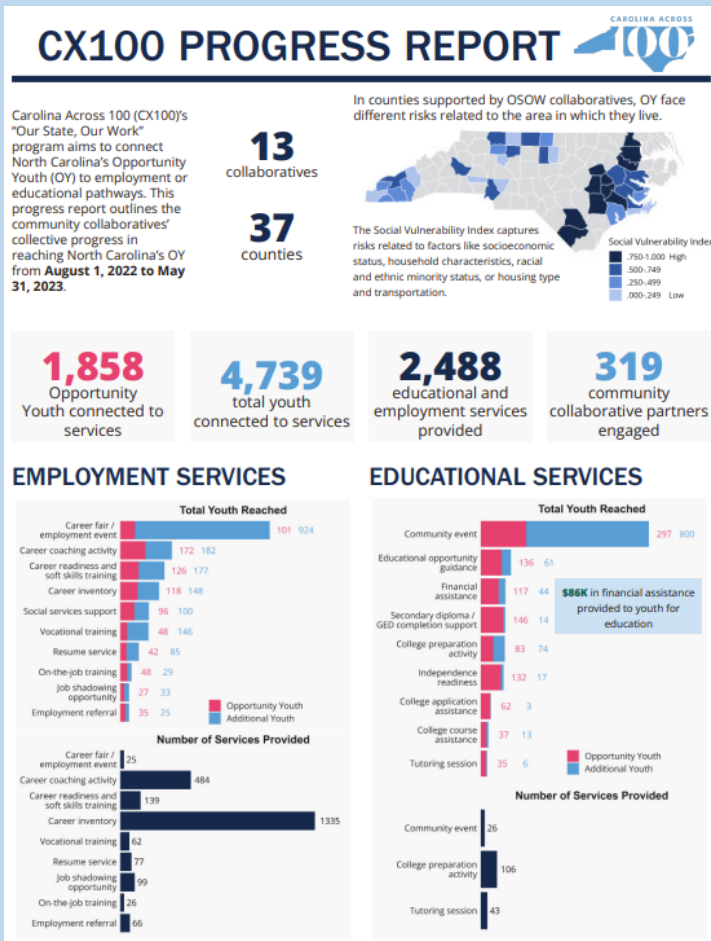
Our State, Our Work: Connecting Young Adults to their Future Forum 4 - Driving to 2025: Achieving Our Goal of Reaching 6,400 Youth

- On July 19, there were 97 total attendees, with 89 of them being community collaborative team members.
- Teams met in person in their local regions and joined together virtually.
- Multiple teams also had youth representatives present for the event.
- The teams participated in guided activities to plan for the sustainability of their efforts after the Our State, Our Work program ends.
- They left the forum with clear goals and next steps.

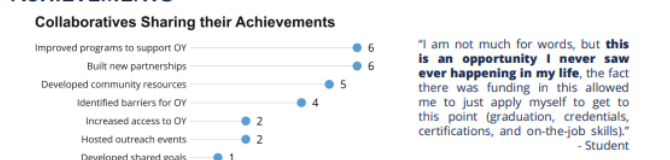


Evaluation

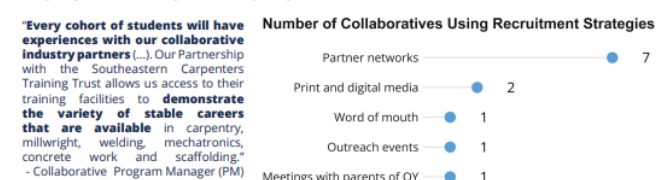
Abacus Evaluation recently completed its Year 1 report assessing the impact of the “Our State, Our Work” teams in their local communities. We are excited and encouraged by these impressive results!



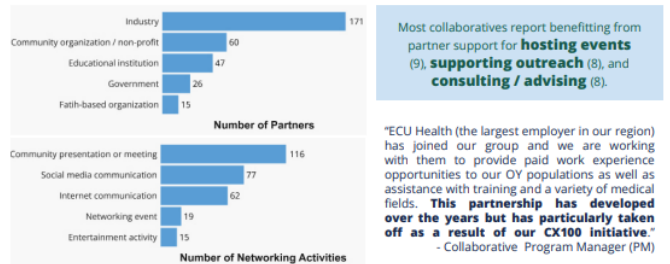
ACHIEVEMENTS



RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES



PARTNERS AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES



OSOW COLLABORATIVE CHALLENGES

- Reaching and engaging the OY population
- Ensuring transportation for OY opportunities
- Staying connected with partners
- Coordinating efforts across counties and partners
- Managing team capacity and turnover

SOLUTIONS

- Using shared platforms to improve communications
- Identifying partners familiar with their region and the OY population
- Recruiting and onboarding key personnel

Tar Heel Bus Tour

Last spring, we announced that in partnership with UNC Rural, we awarded \$100,000 in grant funding to support campus-community partnerships across the state. These grants support the goals of the Tar Heel Bus Tour and encourage participants in the 2019 and 2022 Tar Heel Bus Tours to build on and maintain their connections across North Carolina by developing projects that address issues and needs in partnership with communities throughout the state.

These partnerships span topics such as supporting mothers in recovery, increasing access to fentanyl test strips, integrating global content into the K-12 curriculum, supporting the Granville Vance District Health Department's Community Health Improvement Plans, and developing an environmental justice-based decision-support tool that will test technology solutions.

This opportunity brought in 8 new North Carolina counties. We're excited to be reaching more and more of the state through our pan-University partnerships and hope you'll join us in the count to 100!



Save the Date for the CEC September Meeting!

The CEC's first meeting of 2023-24 is slated to take place on Thursday, September 28 from 3-4:30pm. You should have received an Outlook calendar invite for the 2023-24 meetings from Margaret Barrett. We look forward to reconnecting with you at our meeting next month!