



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

## Carolina Engagement Council Newsletter October 2024

**The impacts of Hurricane Helene on western North Carolina since last month have been profound, and the Carolina community is actively engaged in responding to this disaster.**

The Carolina Center for Public Service (CCPS) is coordinating the University's response to the storm. You can read more and learn about resources related to Carolina's work to support storm recovery at the official [UNC Hurricane Helene disaster relief page](#).

In the weeks ahead, we will share additional information about opportunities for campus community members to participate in relief trips and apply for funding to support relief efforts in western NC.

CCPS and other campus leaders have also begun convening meetings of campus stakeholders to share information and gather feedback and ideas about the University's ongoing response. We look forward to engaging the Carolina Engagement Council as a vital partner in the University's ongoing work to support western North Carolina.

If you are aware of additional resources, events, or other opportunities for partners at UNC-Chapel Hill to help respond, please share them at [ccps@unc.edu](mailto:ccps@unc.edu) or submit them via [this survey](#).

Finally, whether you are directly impacted by and/or helping to respond to Hurricane Helene, please know that there is an abundance of love and support across the state as plans for relief and recovery continue to unfold.

### Our State, Our Homes Updates

In light of Hurricane Helene's impacts on western North Carolina, the application deadline for Carolina Across 100's latest program, [Our State, Our Homes](#), has been extended to November 22, 2024. Carolina Across 100 has also scheduled an additional information session for interested applicants on October 28. We know that issues related to housing will be even more significant in the weeks and months ahead for communities in Western North Carolina, and we hope that this extended timeline will allow for greater participation from communities in the region.

**Early interest in the program since its launch last month has been strong. More than 260 community leaders from 84 North Carolina counties registered for our October 9 informational webinar, and we anticipate substantial interest in the webinar scheduled for October 28.**

The program has received media coverage from [ABC 11](#) and [WCHL](#), and you can read two recent blog posts about housing needs on the [CX100 stories page](#).

If you are interested in learning more about Our State, Our Homes, or partnering to support this program, please reach out to Michael Welker ([mwelker@sog.unc.edu](mailto:mwelker@sog.unc.edu)) to get involved.

## Tar Heel Bus Tour Minigrants

As many of you know, the Tar Heel Bus Tour (THBT) was canceled this year due to Hurricane Helene. The THBT leadership team looks forward to sharing more information about plans to reschedule the tour and offering alternative ways to showcase UNC’s community partners.

Early this year, CX100 awarded \$20,000 in grant funding to two projects. You can learn more about these projects, “Sustaining the Future Generations of Robeson County, NC: Employing Talking Circles in School Settings to Promote Holistic Health and Well-being in Native Adolescent Youth” and “Exploring the Impact of Cultural Nuances and Contextual Factors on Mental Health/Well-being Perceptions among Residents Aged 18-34 years in Dare County, NC,” [on this CX100 webpage.](#)

CX100 was proud to partner with UNC Rural last year to provide \$100,000 in grant funding. On the webpage, you can also learn about the projects in 14 North Carolina Counties that have had far-reaching impacts, such as the first fentanyl and xylazine test strip training for NC community pharmacists, town halls providing recommendations for adapting STEM toys for neurodiverse children, technical assistance for public health departments, and learning and professional development opportunities for UNC faculty, staff, and students.

Stay tuned for further updates on how the CX100 team will deploy the funds to best serve the state and continue to expand our state-wide impact.

## Our State, Our Work

As you know, “[Our State, Our Work](#)” (OSOW) teams set a collective goal of reengaging 6,400 Opportunity Youth (16–24-year-olds who are not working and not in school) by the end of 2024.

**As of April 2024, more than 7,400 Opportunity Youth have been connected to local education and/or employment services.** With six more months of data to report, the collaborative teams have already surpassed their goal!

We are so proud of them, their work, and the impact they will have across our state for generations.

### OSOW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**\$185K**  
in financial assistance  
provided to youth  
for education (e.g.  
scholarships)

**25,561**  
educational and  
employment services  
provided

**319**  
community  
collaborative partners  
engaged

**Over 7,400**  
**Opportunity Youth**  
connected to educational  
and employment services  
*as of April 2024*

## Getting to Know Our Newest CEC Members

We are excited to welcome several new faces to the Carolina Engagement Council this academic year. Thank you to these individuals for their service to Carolina and the state!

Katie Musgrove



*Chair, UNC Employee Forum  
Program Manager of Clinical Programs, UNC  
School of Law*

Joyce Tan (new role)



*Interim Director, Office of Cross-Sector  
Partnerships, School of Data Science and Society*

Paige Ouimet



*Executive Director, Kenan Institute of Private  
Enterprise | Professor of Finance, UNC Kenan-  
Flagler Business School*

Ivy Taylor



*UNC Director of Local Relations  
Professor of Practice, UNC School of  
Government*

## Save the Date for the November CEC Meeting

The CEC's next meeting, which will be virtual, is scheduled for Friday, November 15, at 9:00 AM. Katie Patton ([katie.patton@unc.edu](mailto:katie.patton@unc.edu)) has sent out an Outlook calendar invitation with a Zoom link for this meeting. Please let her know if you haven't received yours. We look forward to connecting with you all again soon!