



Chief Patrice Andrews

Chief of Police, Durham Police Department



Patrice Andrews re-joined the Durham Police Department on November 1, 2021, as Chief of Police. She previously served as the Chief of Police for the Morrisville Police Department from June 2016 until October 2021. Prior to being appointed as the Chief of Police in the Town of Morrisville, Andrews was the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division with the Durham Police Department. During her 25-year law enforcement career, Andrews has held positions in Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigation Division, Special Operations Division, Warrant Squad, Office of the Chief of Police, and the High Enforcement Abatement Team.

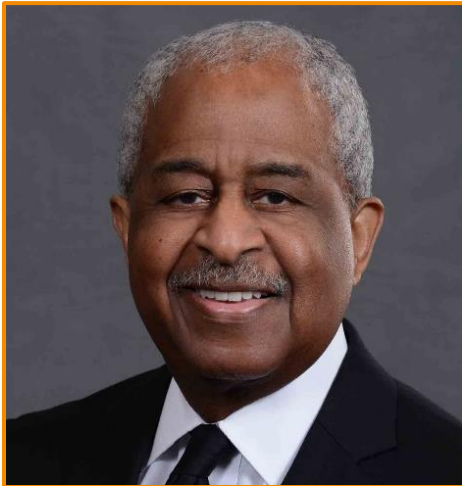
Andrews graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from North Carolina Central University. In addition, she is a graduate of the 263rd session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, as well as a graduate of the West Point Leadership Academy. In June 2018, Andrews was re-appointed to the Governor's Crime Commission and is a member of the Special Committee on School Violence as well as Chair of the Crime Victim Services committee.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP VISIT 2024 DURHAM, NC

Bill Bell

*Former Mayor of Durham
President and CEO, UDI Community Development Corporation*



Bill Bell has been an active public servant of Durham, North Carolina for 47 years. He was elected to the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 1972 and served for 26 years, chairing the board for 12 years. Bell was also the longest-serving mayor of Durham; his term ran from 2001 until 2017, with Bell choosing not to run for re-election in 2017. In addition, Bell served in the military and reached the rank of first lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps.

Bell's civilian work history reflects an extensive degree of education and experience as an engineer. He has worked in several large corporations, such as the Martin-Marietta Corporation (Orlando, Florida), the US Army Research and Development Lab (Ft. Monmouth, NJ), and the IBM Corporation in the Research Triangle Park (RTP), retiring in 1996. He currently is the executive vice-president and chief operating officer at the UDI Community Development Corporation.

Bell also serves on the North Carolina Railroad Company's Board of Directors and the Mechanics & Farmers Bank City Advisory Board and co-chairs the Durham City Sesquicentennial Fundraising 2019 Campaign Committee. Bell has been awarded many honors, including the North Carolina Leadership Award in 1980, which was presented by Governor James B. Hunt, and the Order of Long Leaf Pine in 2016, presented by Governor Pat McCrory.

Bell received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Howard University and his master's degree in electrical engineering from New York University. Bell and his wife, Judith, reside in Durham, North Carolina.



Stephen Bentley

Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Raleigh



Stephen Bentley is the Director of the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, where he leads the planning, design, and communication efforts for Raleigh's park system.

With over two decades of experience in public service, Bentley is guided by his professional values of inclusion, empowerment, and collaboration. In the past ten years, he has concentrated on the equitable growth of Raleigh's Parks and Greenway System.

He has successfully facilitated two publicly approved voter-bond referendums, securing a total of \$180 million in funding to meet the city's expanding public space and community facility needs.

Recently, he has played key roles in acquiring Dorothea Dix Park and implementing renovations at Moore Square.



Andrew Blackburn

Vice President of Government Affairs, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce



Andrew Blackburn serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs at the Raleigh Chamber, overseeing all government relations activities for one of the largest Chambers of Commerce in the United States. In his role, Andrew lobbies municipal, county, state, and federal officials to enhance the quality of life, business climate, and opportunities for growth in the region.

Andrew has successfully managed initiatives on topics such as water and sewer infrastructure, transportation and transit projects, zoning reform, education infrastructure, and public safety. His efforts have facilitated collaboration between government

and private businesses through effective communication with elected officials and staff at all levels.

In the 2022 election cycle, Andrew managed two successful bond campaigns: a \$350 million City of Raleigh parks and greenways bond and a \$530.7 million Wake County Public School System construction and renovation bond. He led coalitions of like-minded individuals, organizations, and businesses, ensuring investments in the region's quality of life and educational improvements. His strategic campaign management included drafting plans, fundraising, and maintaining positive messaging to the electorate.

Andrew also plans and executes events that bring together business and elected leaders to discuss pressing issues and foster relationships that accelerate decision-making processes. His commitment to community development is evident in his efforts to create opportunities for collaboration and innovation in the Triangle region.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP VISIT 2024 DURHAM, NC

J.B. Buxton

President, Durham Technical Community College



J.B. Buxton is a member of the North Carolina State Board of Education, appointed by Governor Roy Cooper, where he works directly with the community college system on a range of education and workforce-related issues. He has also served as an instructor in the Public Policy Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

He is the founder and principal of the Education Innovations Group, a consulting practice focused on PreK-12 and postsecondary public education. In that capacity, Buxton has worked with states, foundations, nonprofit organizations and companies focused on improving public K-12 and

postsecondary education. Buxton has worked closely with the state's community colleges as far back as 2001 when, as senior education advisor to Gov. Mike Easley, and then as deputy state superintendent of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, he successfully led the state's effort to implement early college high schools across the state. He has also served as a White House Fellow working with the Domestic Policy Council under President Clinton; director of policy and research for the Public School Forum of N.C., and coordinator of special programs for the NC Teaching Fellows Program. He began his career as a high school English teacher and coach in Massachusetts.

Buxton attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. He received his master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.



Adrienne Cole

President and CEO, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce



Adrienne Cole is the President and CEO of the Greater Raleigh Chamber, leading the Triangle's largest business membership organization that represents two-thirds of the private sector employment in Wake County.

In this role, Adrienne and her team advocate for the local business community while fostering a thriving regional economy, enhancing quality of life, and strengthening member businesses. Her key focus areas include economic development, diversity, equity and inclusion, government affairs, transportation, workforce development, talent acquisition, entrepreneurship, leadership

development, and supporting small businesses.

Adrienne is a graduate of Meredith College and holds a master's degree in public administration from Appalachian State University. She serves on numerous boards, including the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), Chair of the Metro Cities Council of ACCE, the Board and Executive Committee of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP), the Meredith College Board of Trustees (where she chairs the Business and Finance Committee), the Downtown Raleigh Alliance Board of Directors, The 50 Group Board of Directors, and the City Club Raleigh Board of Governors. She is also an active member of several business and civic organizations in the Triangle.

Under Adrienne's leadership, the Chamber and Wake County Economic Development have achieved economic development project wins totaling \$5.24 billion and 23,600 jobs since 2014.

Adrienne has been honored with the Triangle Business Journal's Women in Business Award and CEO of the Year award and has been recognized by Business NC in their Power List. She also received the TCREW Impact Award in 2023. Adrienne and her husband Walt reside in Raleigh with their three children.



Ryan Combs

Executive Director, Research Triangle Regional Partnership



Ryan Combs has been the Executive Director of the Research Triangle Regional Partnership (RTRP) since February 2017. He works with economic development organizations to market the region's competitive advantages to investors.

Before RTRP, Ryan was the Legislative Director for Government Affairs at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, advocating for State Troopers, Correctional Officers, the State Bureau of Investigation, and more. He also spent eight years as a field representative for U.S. Senator Richard Burr, building strong community ties across North Carolina.

Ryan's career began in Washington, D.C. as a White House staff assistant under President George W. Bush and with U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole. He also worked at the non-profit Empower America.

A Raleigh native, Ryan graduated from Broughton High School and North Carolina State University, where he pitched for the Wolfpack baseball team. He serves as the Canadian Government's Honorary Consul for the Triangle and supports Project ALS and the ALS Association of North Carolina in memory of his brother, Chris.



Geoff Durham

President and CEO, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce



Geoff Durham is the President and CEO of the Durham Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he led Downtown Durham Inc. (DDI), where he oversaw significant growth in commercial, residential, and lodging sectors. Under his leadership, downtown saw a 94% office occupancy rate, a doubling of its residential population, and a tripling of hotel rooms. Over 700,000 square feet of new office and innovation space is now in development.

With extensive experience in economic development, Durham served as Economic Development Director for Fairfax, VA, and Urban District Manager for downtown Silver Spring, MD. His efforts in Silver

Spring earned several awards, including the National Association of Counties "Innovative Program Achievement" Award.

Durham's passion for Bull City and his expertise in public/private partnerships made him the ideal choice for his current role. A graduate of Randolph-Macon College, he holds certifications in Economic Development and Commercial Finance. He lives in Durham with his wife and two daughters.



Bryan Fox

Vice President of Public Policy, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce



Throughout his career, Bryan has demonstrated an ability to understand complex issues and work with all sides to achieve agreeable solutions.

Fox started his career in federal, state, and local conservation advocacy, has worked on a statewide political campaign, serves on the board of a regional Agribusiness Council, and is an active member of the North Carolina Economic Development Association (NCEA).

Most recently, he directed The Fox Group, LLC, a public relations consulting practice. Prior to starting his own business, he served the 2nd Congressional District as a Field Representative, Caseworker, and

Staff Assistant for over five-and-a-half years throughout central North Carolina and on Capitol Hill.

Additionally, he helped manage Duke University's varsity men's basketball and football programs while earning degrees in Public Policy Studies and Markets and Management Studies and holds a certificate in Economic Development from the UNC School of Government. Born and raised in the Triangle – plus several years in Memphis, Tennessee – Fox lives in Durham with his wife and their son.



Matt Gladdek

Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce



Matt has served as the Durham Chamber of Commerce's Vice President of Economic Development since the beginning of 2023. During this time, he has brought in over 260 jobs and over \$70 million in capital investments. He represents Durham for those companies looking to expand or locate in Durham. He also serves on the Durham Tech Community College Board of Trustees.

Before working at the Chamber, Matt was the Executive Director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, where he led the organization through a new strategic plan, restructured and increased the staff, collaborated with multiple organizations on the pandemic response, doubled the organization's budget, and increased

downtown foot traffic above pre-pandemic levels. Matt also worked at Downtown Durham, Inc. as the Director of Policy and Planning.

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Gladdek went to college in Massachusetts and spent four years working at the state legislature in Boston. Realizing the next step in his career was graduate school, Matt enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill and graduated with a master's degree in city and regional planning and a master's degree in public administration. Gladdek has made Durham his home for over fifteen years.



Michael Goodman

Executive Vice President, Capitol Broadcasting Company



Michael Goodman is Executive Vice President for Capitol Broadcasting Company (CBC). Working with their father, Jim, he and his brother Jimmy, are the fourth generation of his family helping to lead this forward-thinking company.

Michael leads both the real estate and baseball divisions of CBC, with locations in Durham, Rocky Mount and Holly Springs, North Carolina. Real estate developments and holdings include both urban and rural mixed-use developments with the American Tobacco Historic District in Durham, North Carolina and Rocky Mount Mills in Rocky Mount, North Carolina respectively.

The baseball division includes the Durham Bulls in Durham, North Carolina and the Holly Springs Salamanders in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Additionally, Michael has helped lead the charge for the American Underground startup hub as well as multiple alternative investments including solar/alternative energy, passive real estate investments and breweries.

Michael is a passionate advocate for the Durham and Triangle communities and serves on several boards to encourage growth, entrepreneurship and community development. His board service includes: AJ Fletcher Foundation; The Fletcher Academy; East Durham Children's Initiative; Triangle Community Foundation; United Way of the Greater Triangle and Leadership Triangle. In addition, he was recently named chair by Governor Roy Cooper of the Governor's Entrepreneurial Council for North Carolina.

He earned a B.S. in Mathematical Economics from Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, VA and a Masters in Trust and Investment Management from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC. He and his wife Liz live in Durham with their four children.



Kate Goodwin

Owner, Kate's Korner Educational Services, LLC



Kezia 'Kate' Goodwin is the Owner of Kate's Korner Educational Services and Kate's Korner Learning Center, an early childhood education provider in Durham, North Carolina. With three decades of leadership experience in early childhood education and an entrepreneurial spirit, she has developed a new model to enhance access to equitable learning experiences through community strength. Committed to Justice in Education, Kate's life purpose is to create just learning opportunities for children and eliminate implicit bias in educators' instructional practices and perspectives of child potential.

As the President and Co-Founder of Truth Education Foundation, Kate is passionate about transforming early childhood ecosystems. With over five years of experience in leading and managing educational organizations, she has a proven track record of building effective, cohesive teams that are culturally competent and child-focused.



Michael Haley

*Executive Director, Wake County Economic Development
Senior Vice President, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce*



Michael leads and oversees the economic development program and staff at Wake County Economic Development (WCED) and serves as the primary partner supporting the county's 12 other municipalities. In his role, Michael is instrumental in fostering an environment in Wake County that encourages growth and prosperity, collaborating extensively with community partners to achieve this goal.

Michael previously served as the Director of Business Recruitment and Expansion for WCED and was a Program Manager before that. Before joining the Chamber, he led strategic economic development policy efforts for the North Carolina Department of Commerce as the Director of Public Policy.

A native of Jacksonville, North Carolina, Michael earned a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in Public Policy from East Carolina University. He and his family are active community members, enjoying local sports events and cheering for teams like the Hurricanes. Michael is also involved in his children's sports activities, coaching soccer and basketball. He and his family are proud to call Wake County home and are dedicated to promoting North Carolina as a great place to live, work, and play.



Don Hobart

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Don Hobart serves as an Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UNC-Chapel Hill. The UNC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research was a founding university partner for the Center for Galapagos Studies and the Galapagos Science Center. Don served as Chair of the Galapagos Science Center Advisory Board from 2017 to 2019 and has been a member of the advisory boards of the GSC and Center for Galapagos Studies since 2013.

He is actively involved in building internal and external institutional and donor support for the center, establishing partnerships, and communicating the stories and impact of the Center's work.



Jerry Jones

Executive Director, Center for Workforce Engagement, Durham Technical Community College



Jerry Jones is an accomplished leader in workforce development with over two decades of experience dedicated to bridging education and industry needs. Recently appointed as the head of Durham Tech's Center for Workforce Engagement, Jones brings a wealth of knowledge and a strategic vision to the role. His career, which began in the Research Triangle Park (RTP) region, has come full circle with this position, symbolizing his deep-rooted connection to the area.

His expertise spans creating and managing programs that enhance workforce readiness and align educational outcomes with employer needs. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in fostering partnerships that

drive economic growth and provide students and professionals with opportunities for advancement.

At Durham Tech, Jones is tasked with leading the Center for Workforce Engagement, a hub designed to connect students, job seekers, and employers. His vision for the Center includes developing innovative programs and strategies that respond to the rapidly changing demands of the job market. By leveraging his extensive network and experience, Jones aims to position Durham Tech as a leader in workforce development, not just within RTP but also on a broader scale.

Under his guidance, the Center for Workforce Engagement is becoming a cornerstone of Durham Tech's mission to provide high-quality education and training that meets the needs of today's employers. As he leads the Center into a new era, Jones remains focused on creating lasting impacts that benefit both the community and the economy.



Adam Klein

Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Duke University



Adam Klein is the Associate Vice President for Economic Development at Duke University and Duke University Health System. In this role, he leads programs to enhance economic opportunities within the Duke and Durham communities.

Previously, Klein was the Director of Durham Real Estate for Capitol Broadcasting, overseeing the American Tobacco Campus (ATC) in downtown Durham. Under his leadership, the diversity of ATC restaurant ownership significantly increased, with 80 percent now led by women or people of color. As Chief Strategist for the American Underground startup hub, he grew the number of entrepreneurs

from 35 to 275 in four years, establishing it as one of the nation's most diverse tech hubs.

Klein was selected for his current role through a national search led by Sara Childs and supported by TaJuan Wilson. He brings extensive experience in business formation, workforce development, and real estate. He also serves on several nonprofit boards, including the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce and the Institute for Minority Economic Development.

Originally from Ohio, Klein attended Denison University and earned a Master's in Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill. He resides in Durham with his wife and three daughters.



**COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP VISIT**
2024 DURHAM, NC

Jeff Merritt

Executive Director, The Centennial Authority & PNC Arena



Prior to the Centennial Authority, Jeff was Business Development Director for Clancy & Theys Construction Company from 2007 until 2011; Eastern Regional Director for Government Affairs for KB Home from 2003 to 2007; and Vice President for Government and Community Affairs for the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce from 1998 until 2003. He began his career in 1989 as a Press Assistant to then-North Carolina Governor Jim Martin.

Jeff is a graduate of Appalachian State University where he earned a bachelor's in political science with a concentration in Communications and North Carolina State University where he earned a Master of

Arts in Liberal Studies. He is a Fellow of the North Carolina Institute for Political Leadership and The German Marshall Fund of the United States. In 2007, he received a Marshall Memorial Fellowship. He was recognized in 2001 as one of the Triangle Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and is a recipient of North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

He serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance, and liaison to the Board of the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. He is an Executive Committee member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Raleigh Regional Local Organizing Committee. He is immediate past president of the Appalachian State Alumni Council, Chairman of Appalachian State University's Department of Communication Professional Advisory Board and former member of the University's Board of Trustees and Foundation. He served from 2006 until 2013 as the Wake County Commissioner's appointee to the Triangle Transit Authority Board of Trustees and served for more than two years as the agency's Chairman. In 2005, he chaired Leadership Raleigh. He has had leadership roles in committees tasked with passing local and county bond efforts for school construction, transportation, parks and open space.



Joe Milazzo

Executive Director, Regional Transportation Alliance



For over 20 years, Joe has served as the Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA), a business coalition dedicated to advancing transportation policy and funding in the Research Triangle region. In this role, he coordinates with business leaders, elected officials, and transportation partners at all levels to enhance mobility in the area. RTA represents major employers such as IBM, Google, MetLife, and Duke University, and supports over 25 member chambers of commerce in 13 counties across central North Carolina.

Since 2002, Joe has led several significant initiatives, including the construction of the \$1 billion Triangle Expressway, North Carolina's largest highway project upon its opening in 2012, and the subsequent \$2 billion extension of the turnpike. He pioneered the regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) strategy, led communications for the 2016 Wake County transit referendum, and introduced the "dynamic left turn intersection" in Cary. Joe also conceptualized the Air Service Advancement Project to boost air service at Raleigh-Durham International Airport and facilitated the I-40 widening project to alleviate traffic congestion.

Previously, Joe served as Director of Policy and Traffic Operations at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at North Carolina State University. As a registered professional engineer and lobbyist, he has been instrumental in enhancing the Triangle region's economic development and quality of life.



Aaron Nelson

President and CEO, The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro



Aaron Nelson has served as the President and CEO since 2001. In his role at the Chamber, Aaron serves a membership network of more than 600 enterprises employing more than 95,000 people throughout the Research Triangle region. Aaron is also Executive Director for the Chamber's economic and community development affiliate, the Partnership for a Sustainable Community. Prior to the Chamber, Aaron worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as their Coordinator of Local Relations.

A Leadership Chapel Hill-Carrboro Fellow and a Ford Foundation Fellow for Regional Sustainable Development, Aaron has deep roots in and a

commitment to his community. Aaron has served on the Board of Directors of more than 25 local, state, and national organizations and currently serves as the Chair of the national Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy which he co-founded in 2011. A national and international speaker on economic and community development strategy, Aaron is most animated by local and regional collaboration that helps keep the Chapel Hill-Carrboro community one of the best places in the world to live, work, play, and raise a family. A 1997 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in Philosophy, Aaron also served as the elected student body president. Aaron leaps at each day enjoying all Greater Chapel Hill has to offer with his wife, Sonja, and their children, Maxwell and Atlee.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP VISIT 2024 DURHAM, NC

Kelly Propst

*Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Research Triangle Park
Foundation*



In August 2023, Kelly Propst joined the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina as the Vice President of Marketing and Communications. In her role, Kelly oversees marketing strategies and operations for the Foundation's dynamic brands, each playing a unique role in the community. These brands encompass Research Triangle Park (RTP), the renowned research park where people and ideas converge; Hub RTP, the Park's new vibrant downtown; Boxyard RTP, the hyper-local retail venue made of upcycled shipping containers; and Frontier RTP, an innovation community tailored for startups and emerging companies.

Before joining the Foundation, Kelly had worked at Largemouth Communications since 2006. During her time at Largemouth, she provided account management, strategic planning, and PR program implementation for a wide range of clients, from hyper-local startups to multinational organizations with billions in revenue. Kelly oversaw strategic media relations programs, including media tours, thought leadership campaigns, grassroots initiatives, and consumer engagement strategies for clients in the retail, consumer, information technology, health care, biotech, and education industries. She also led content development efforts, supporting internal and external communications, as well as influencer engagement programs, social media content creation and creative brand activations.



Dr. Scott Ralls

President, Wake Technical Community College



Dr. Scott Ralls is the fourth president of Wake Technical Community College, North Carolina's largest community college. Wake Tech is recognized for its innovative workforce and education programs and is a national leader in online education.

From 2015 to 2019, Dr. Ralls was president of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), where he developed a nationally acclaimed partnership with Amazon Web Services and initiated the ADVANCE program with George Mason University.

Previously, he served as president of the North Carolina Community College System, president of Craven Community College, and vice president of Economic and Workforce Development.

Dr. Ralls has been named a Power 100 Business Leader in both the Washington, D.C., region and North Carolina. He has testified before U.S. Senate and House committees on workforce development and student success and was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to the Telecommunications Workforce Working Group. He also co-chairs the Community College Workforce Consortium.

He holds a bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a master's and doctoral degrees in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from the University of Maryland.

Dr. Ralls' honors include the Distinguished Public Service Award from the North Carolina Chamber and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor.



**COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP VISIT**
2024 DURHAM, NC

Sam Rauf

Senior Economic Development Manager, Wake County Economic Development



As the Senior Economic Development Manager, Sam has a hand in all aspects of the team's business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts.

Before joining the Wake County Economic Development team, Sam worked in economic development in Chatham County, NC and previously served as an intern for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership. Sam's interest in economic development was sparked by the impact the work has on communities by providing jobs and improving quality of life.

Sam grew up in Cary, North Carolina before graduating from Roanoke College with a degree in Economics. A former college athlete, Sam uses his experience with team sports to collaborate with partners in the workplace. In his free time, Sam enjoys playing sports or supporting one of North Carolina's professional teams. You can find him out and about in local parks and greenways or exploring downtown Raleigh and the surrounding region.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP VISIT 2024 DURHAM, NC

Matt Sears

Chief of Partnerships, Durham Public Schools Foundation



Matt believes public education holds the promise of being the greatest equalizer for our communities and has dedicated two decades to working with public school students, teachers, principals, and community leaders.

Teaching for seven years at Hillside and New Tech high schools, Matt was honored as Durham Public Schools' Teacher of the Year in 2008. After a Fulbright experience teaching in southern India, Matt moved into school improvement coaching, with consulting work across North Carolina and with national networks of schools. Matt served as the Director of Educational Programs at Duke TIP starting in 2017

and led the Durham community for over eight years as a member of the DPS School Board, serving as Vice-Chair in 2022 and 2023.

Matt is proud of working with neighborhood schools, including organizing neighbors to invest in and support his children's neighborhood Lakewood Elementary School--one of DPS' Community Schools.

Matt studied mathematics and computer science at Purdue University, earning his B.S. before completing his Master of Arts in Teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill. Matt and his wife have three children attending DPS elementary and middle schools. Matt is conversationally fluent in Spanish, and enjoys gardening, tennis, golf and traveling with his family.



**COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP VISIT**
2024 DURHAM, NC

Scott Selig

Associate Vice President for Capital Assets, Duke University



Scott has 30 years of experience in both the public and private sectors of the commercial real industry.

Scott is charged with developing and implementing the overall real estate strategy for Duke University and the Duke University Health System. He is acting in the lead role for Duke University regarding the development and implementation of the Durham Innovation District and American Tobacco and other real estate and economic development missions. In addition, Scott is responsible for the asset management of the Washington Duke Inn, a 271-room, 4 –star hotel and executive meeting center.

The Real Estate Office portfolio contains more than 300 leases encompassing approximately 4.5 Million square feet of office, medical clinic, laboratory and warehouse space.

Scott holds an MBA from Duke University and is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from the University of Washington in Seattle.



Dr. Kimberly Sowell

County Manager, Durham County Government



A native of Kannapolis, Sowell holds a B.S. in Accounting, an M.S. in Adult Education, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration from North Carolina A&T State University. She also has over 20 years of progressive experience in the corporate, higher education and government sectors.

Her career began with Deloitte where she audited financial statements of clients in the government, non-profit, and insurance industries. Dr. Sowell transitioned into higher education when employed by North Carolina A&T where she served in various roles including University Treasurer, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor for Business & Finance, and Assistant

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs/Administration. She joined the City of Greensboro in 2015, initially working in the Human Resources and Water Resources departments before becoming an Assistant City Manager in 2019.

As a transformational leader, she has completed several other executive leadership programs including the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) Executive Leadership Institute, the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Other Voices Executive Program, and the NC Office of State Human Resources Leadership Institute for Female Employees (LIFE).



Angelique Stallings

Vice President of Community Investment, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce



Angelique Stallings serves as the Vice President of Community Investment at the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. The New Bern, North Carolina, native served as a student-athlete on North Carolina Central University's women's basketball team from 1993 to 1997, earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from NCCU. Stallings' career includes 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, including stints at the Millennium Hotel Durham and Sheraton Imperial Hotel Raleigh - Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park. She has also served in various roles at Radio One Raleigh.

What began as a side business for Stallings flourished into a business that allowed her to do meaningful political work. In 2008, she established The MochaMind Agency, a public relations and marketing agency. Stallings has worked with the Biden-Harris presidential campaign, as well as other political campaigns across North Carolina.

Stallings' passion for local politics and voter education is personified with her role as chair of the Civic Committee for the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People.

In her spare time, she lends her event planning and marketing skills as a member of the NCCU Forty Under Forty Alumni Awards Planning Committee.



Casey Steinbacher

Executive Director, Made in Durham



Casey Steinbacher is a nationally recognized expert in urban innovation and community development strategies. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Made in Durham, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a seamless education-to-career pathway for all youth and young adults in Durham. As a co-founder of Made in Durham, Casey has been instrumental in ensuring that every young person in Durham has access to post-secondary credentials and high-wage career opportunities by age 25. Her leadership focuses on innovative education-to-career initiatives, with equity as the driving force for historically excluded youth and young adults.

Casey also leads Finding Next, a company that identifies and develops new opportunities for communities and organizations, with a unique emphasis on place-based equitable talent development. She is credited with developing the strategy that positioned entrepreneurs and millennials as key components of the downtown Durham renaissance, earning the city the title of "Start-Up Capital of the South" by MSNBC.

From 2007 to 2015, Casey served as President and CEO of the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership, the Chamber received national and international recognition for its innovative economic and entrepreneurial development initiatives, including winning the Best Innovative Economic Development Project award at the World Chambers Congress in Doha, Qatar, in 2013. During her tenure, Durham saw over \$5 billion in new investments and the creation of more than 20,000 jobs, along with the rapid growth of a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

With 27 years of experience in Chamber and economic development work, Casey has also served as President and CEO of Chambers in Pennsylvania and Florida.



Nicole Stewart

Director of Engagement, A.J. Fletcher Foundation



Nicole is the Director of Engagement at the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, where she is responsible for community engagement, storytelling, and supporting the foundation's grantees.

Nicole graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in environmental studies and spent 18 years at the NC Conservation Network. In the first half of her career, she traveled across North Carolina, coordinating individuals and organizations to tackle major environmental challenges. In the latter half, she focused on fundraising to support the Network and its affiliates.

Nicole served on the Raleigh City Council as an At-Large member from 2018 to 2022 and was Mayor Pro Tem from 2021 to 2022. She represented Raleigh on the NC League of Municipalities' Board and served on the boards of DHIC and Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

She also co-founded The Beehive Collective, which awarded over \$425,000 to Raleigh-based nonprofits over 14 years before closing in 2022. Their grants supported projects that championed women and immigrants, improved access to transportation and affordable housing, and provided essential healthcare to underserved youth in Raleigh.

Nicole lives with her husband Les, co-owner of Trophy Brewing, and their two children. They have a lively household with two cats, two chickens, two gerbils, and a tank full of fish. Nicole is currently rediscovering relaxation through birding, gardening, and cross-stitching.



Thomas White

Director, Economic Development Partnership, North Carolina State University



As an English major and member of the golf team at Duke University, Tom White never imagined he'd launch into a long career in economic development. Initially immersed in literature, his interests eventually led him to the Durham Chamber of Commerce. There, he rose to president and CEO over a 28-year career, advocating for local and state policies that supported business growth. After a tenure at the North Carolina Department of Commerce, he joined NC State University in 2008 as Director of Economic Development, where he champions public-private partnerships, creating jobs, and attracting global investments to North Carolina.

White's approach to economic development emphasizes collaboration among universities, industries, and government. At NC State, he has played a key role in initiatives that have led to significant job creation and capital investment, such as Bharat Forge America's investment in Sanford and Merck's vaccine manufacturing center in Durham. His work has helped NC State achieve recognition as an Innovation & Economic Prosperity university. He continues to drive economic growth by leveraging the university's strengths and fostering relationships that benefit both urban and rural communities across the state.

White is known for his dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts, often working long hours across the state to build connections and promote economic opportunities. His leadership has facilitated projects that bring together diverse stakeholders to address challenges and create sustainable growth. He serves on various boards and contributes to community-building organizations, highlighting his commitment to improving the economic landscape for all North Carolinians. White's impact is marked by his ability to connect people and resources, fostering an environment where innovation and collaboration thrive.



Mayor Leonardo Williams

Mayor, City of Durham



Mayor Leonardo (Leo) Williams has a rich background in education as a former teacher and school administrator. He was elected to the Durham City Council in December 2021 and assumed the role of mayor in December 2023. A proud alumnus of North Carolina Central University, Leo earned his bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in educational leadership. It was during his time at NCCU that he met his wife, Zweli, with whom he shares a son, Izaiah Williams.

Throughout his career, Mayor Williams has been recognized for his excellence and innovation in education, receiving the Teacher of the Year award twice from Durham Public Schools and earning a "40 Under 40" accolade from the Triangle Business Journal. Transitioning from education, he became a successful entrepreneur by co-founding Zweli's, the first full-service Zimbabwean restaurant in the United States, with his wife.

As a member of the City Council, Mayor Williams is dedicated to leveraging his expertise in education and entrepreneurship to tackle significant social challenges. He is committed to fostering a unified Durham community that prioritizes safety and prosperity for all its residents.



Sara Young

Director, Durham City-County Planning Department, City of Durham



Sara Moreno Young serves as the Director of the Durham City-County Planning Department. Her appointment marked the culmination of a distinguished career with the department, where she has made significant contributions since joining in 2000.

Young began her tenure with the Durham City-County Planning Department as its first Urban Designer, a role in which she played a key part in developing Durham's first form-based zoning regulations. Her expertise and leadership quickly earned her a promotion to Planning Manager in 2007, where she led a team of urban designers on numerous impactful projects.

In 2014, Young was promoted to Assistant Director of the department. She has been serving as the Director since July 2020, a period during which she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, especially in the face of challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before her tenure with the Durham City-County Planning Department, Young worked as an intern architect and project manager with a Durham-based architecture firm from 1997 to 2000. She holds a Master of Architecture with an Urban Design Concentration and a Bachelor of Environmental Design in Architecture, both from North Carolina State University. Additionally, she has completed the Municipal and County Administration Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government.

Young is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association, and the Urban Land Institute.