



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM**

## THE UNC SYSTEM NEWS

*September 2018*

A MONTHLY e-NEWSLETTER FOR UNC SYSTEM OFFICE EMPLOYEES

*Volume I, Issue 7*



### First-in-Nation Virtual Reality App Showcases UNC System Tours

The University of North Carolina System unveiled a new app that will allow users to take immersive virtual reality



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Across the System Office, much is happening to make this semester a strong one for the UNC System. All our work has an impact, but few efforts will have as great of

tours of each of the UNC System's 16 universities. This innovative initiative, made possible through the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) NC program, marks the first wide-scale use of virtual reality to promote and facilitate college access.

The GEAR UP NC VR app is the first-of-its-kind and the largest VR project for social good to date. While other campuses have begun offering virtual tours, this marks the first time a university system has used the technology across all of its institutions.

The app was created with the specific purpose of helping students in rural, low-wealth, and first-generation families engage with the decision-making and application processes other college-bound students face with more secure support systems. The app helps build a college-going culture across the state, encouraging students to aspire to higher education and connecting them with the institution that will help them attain their academic and personal goals.

"This virtual reality technology gives every North Carolinian the opportunity to make more informed choices about where they want to go. Just as importantly, it helps them figure out how they're going to get there." said UNC System President Margaret Spellings.

ICYMI, click here to read the [full article](#).

an impact as our work to reduce cost and tuition.

At all our institutions, tuition for resident undergraduates is flat or falling, including at our three NC Promise institutions, where tuition has dropped to just \$500 a semester.

For the second year in a row, fixed tuition is in place. Our students know they will pay the same tuition on year four as they did the first year they walked on to campus.

And in partnership with the NC Community College System, we are in the midst of a comprehensive review of our state's financial aid systems to ensure the state's big investment in this powerful tool is doing all it can to drive student access and success.

It's all in stark contrast to a decade and more of rising college costs. We're getting costs under control, and it's essential to all we do.

North Carolina must build a college going culture in all 100 counties and for all of its citizens. But we can't build a college going culture if we price college out of reach for ordinary families.

Our state and University are defying national trends across many metrics but our historic and growing lead on affordability is among our most important achievements. Keeping costs low is the cornerstone of our efforts to make higher education an option for every North Carolinian.

I hope all of us feel proud of our leadership on affordability because, for students and families across the state, it's changing lives and unlocking opportunities. It's why we're here, and I look forward to working with all of



## 2018 Student Success Conference Set for Sept.

The UNC System will host a Student Success Conference on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. The all-day conference will be held at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill and is open to UNC System faculty and staff. This conference will be an opportunity to share and learn about unique student success stories from representatives of UNC System institutions.

The conference, hosted by the System's Student Success Innovation Lab (a partnership between the divisions of Strategy and Policy and Academic Affairs) is set to support institutional collaboration around student success initiatives and showcase innovative programs and technologies.

"This conference can act as a platform to begin propagating programs that have a track record of success at other public universities in North Carolina. If one university is doing something excellent, let's share with each other to help all of our students," said Elizabeth Reilly, director of Data Analysis and Policy Research and conference organizer.

Organizers hope to also learn more about funding opportunities and ways to study new strategies through the Student Success Innovation Lab.

To register for the conference, visit the [2018 Student Success Conference](#). Click here to learn more about the [Student Success Innovation Lab](#).

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you as we redouble our efforts to make even more progress this fall and beyond.

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## WELCOME ABOARD!

We welcome our new colleagues to the University of North Carolina System Office:

**Clinton Carter**, Sr. VP for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, UNC System

**Mary Collins**, Executive Assistant to the Sr. VP for Finance and Administration, UNC System

**Charisse Holloway**, Administrative Support Associate, University and P12 Partnerships, UNC System

**Andre Richardson**, Specialist, Academic Programs, Faculty, and Research, UNC System

**Rhonda Turner**, Accounting Operations Manager, UNC-TV

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## ASG Elects Executive Board & Discusses Strategic Plan

The 2018-19 Association of Student Governments (ASG) Executive Board recently held an orientation and elected its new board members. The orientation provided an opportunity for new members of the executive board to meet in person for the first time. The fifteen members of the executive board are from 11 of the system institutions.

The ASG's purpose is to represent students at each of the institutions within the UNC System. Bettylenah Njaramba, the ASG President, sits on the Board of Governors as a non-voting member. The executive board was selected by ASG President Njaramba and Sr. Vice President Anderson Clayton.

The group met with System staff to learn more about their administrative and leadership roles, and discussed the new ASG Strategic Plan and its goals. In addition to beginning their academic semester and being involved in co-curricular pursuits at their home institutions, these students are committed to working for the benefit of every student in the UNC System.



## MARK OUR CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

October 1 -Town Hall and Staff Appreciation BBQ, 10 am - 2 pm

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Regular Meetings

September 13-14, 2018

Full Board meeting at CSLD

October 9-10, 2018

Full Board meeting at CSLD

November 8-9, 2018

Full Board meeting at CSLD

December 14, 2018

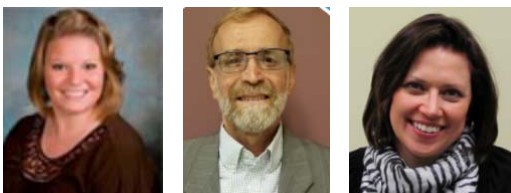
Full Board meeting at CSLD, one day only

January 24-25, 2019

Full Board meeting at CSLD



To learn more about ASG, visit the website at [www.theuncasg.org](http://www.theuncasg.org).



## Summit for Understanding Mathways Across the System

The UNC System Math Pathways Task Force is gearing up for a one-day SUM UNC: Summit for Understanding Mathways Across the System, on Friday, Sept. 7, at the CSLD Building. The summit will introduce UNC System faculty and staff to the challenges and recommendations developed during Phase I of the Math Pathways Project. SUM UNC will also generate support for the vision and goals of Math Pathways and build awareness of the program throughout the state.

"This collaborative effort offers a new model for how we approach rigorous academic program redesign from the UNC System Office. Guided by leadership in Academic Affairs and Strategy and Policy, the Math Pathways initiative brings together a team of expertise from across the 17 constituent institutions in pursuit of a shared vision of student success," said Dr. Kim Van Noort, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The UNC Math Pathways project was created to address how universities can redesign math curricula to allow students flexibility to map pathways that link their math requirements to their degree and career goals. In April, the

**March 21-22, 2019**

Full Board meeting at Appalachian State University

**May 21-22, 2019**

Full Board meeting at CSLD

For more information, click on the [Board of Governors](#)



## REMINDERS

Human Resources: Stay Connected!

**Want your news to be included in the next UNC System e-Newsletter?** The deadline is September 14. See your division's communications liaison and send information to [submit\\_news@northcarolina.edu](mailto:submit_news@northcarolina.edu).

### **EHRA Appraisals are Due!**

The countdown is on! We are drawing closer to our deadline for the submission of EHRA appraisals and performance plans. Thank you

task force brought together key faculty members, instructional designers, and administrators from across the state to redesign math courses based on a growing body of evidence indicating that, when course learning outcomes correspond more directly with students' long-term goals, the resulting "pathway" improves the odds of student success.

"Math Pathways means more to us than a re-vamped curriculum with pre-programmed content. It is about innovation, flexibility, and--above all--student success," added Dr. Michelle Solér, Math Pathways project lead and director for Competency Based Education and Assessment.

The Math Pathways Task Force leaders include, co-chairs, Dr. Mohammad Kazemi, professor and associate chair of UNC Charlotte's math department and Dr. Tracey Howell, UNC Greensboro, senior academic professional, and Elizabeth Creath, UNC Wilmington, lecturer, chair of the Math Pathways Summit.

For more information, email Dr. Solér at [mlsoler@northcarolina.edu](mailto:mlsoler@northcarolina.edu).

to those who have already submitted. Please the following in mind:

*The EHRA cycle ended June 30*

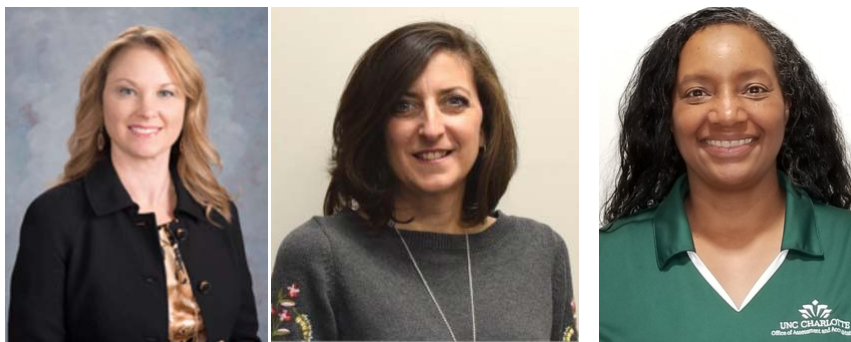
- 2017-18 annual appraisals are due August 31
- 2018-19 performance plans are also due August 31

*Who needs an annual appraisal?*

EHRA employees who are employed as of June 30, 2018 and have been a state employee since January 1, 2018 or earlier (6 months) in one or more permanent EHRA positions.

*Submitting Documents to Human Resources:*

- Forms and additional guidance are available on the HR website.
- Supervisors must send a copy of the completed 2017-18 annual appraisals and the 2018-19 performance plans for their employees to System HR Employee Engagement by the deadlines above.
- Email PDF attachment is acceptable, or delivery by campus mail or in person.
- Send documents to Chariss Jones, Employee Relations and Equal Opportunity Programs Manager at [csjones@northcarolina.edu](mailto:csjones@northcarolina.edu).





## The Faces of the UNC System Assessment Council

The UNC System Assessment Council was established in 2016 by the Faculty Assembly General Education Committee to facilitate consensus and collaboration towards a system-wide goal of supporting course, programs, and institutional evaluation.

Made up of more than 70 members from across the System, the council supports reporting and planning around student learning, and provides professional development opportunities for faculty. Council leadership includes representatives from a host of System institutions, including (pictured above) Dr. Kristen Drefus-Springer of East Carolina University, Dr. Jodi Pettazzoni of UNC Greensboro, Dr. Christine Robinson of UNC Charlotte, Dr. Stephany Dunstan of NC State, and Dr. Cecil McManus of Fayetteville State University.

UNC Charlotte was one of five institutions who recently received national recognition for excellence in assessment from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment—an honor demonstrating years of work to deliver interventions to support student learning.



## CLUBS+

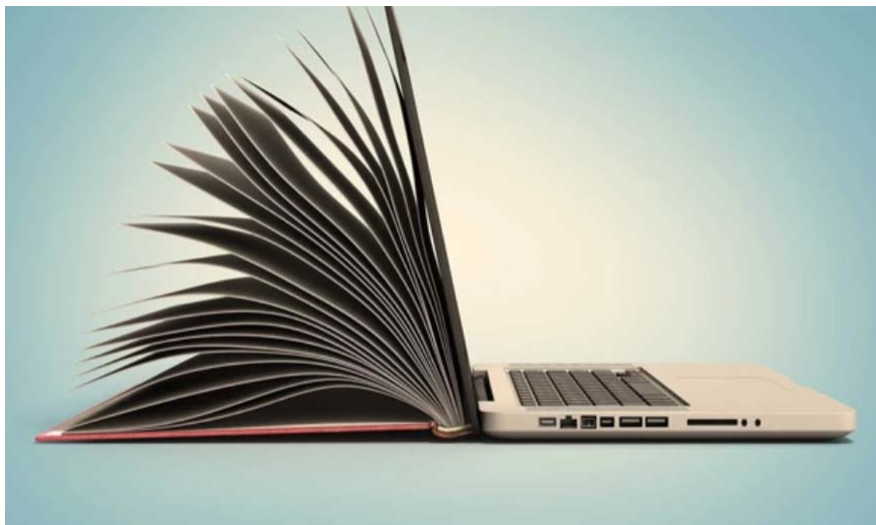
*Interested in starting a club or hosting a meet-up with other employees?*

Send your ideas, along with details and contact information to Human Resources.

*NOTE: CLUBS+ and meet-ups are sponsored by individual employees and not by the UNC System. Individuals responsible for coordination are encouraged to schedule activities during non-work hours.*

This year the council will look at mapping UNC System themes with Excellence in Assessment criteria, developing unified assessment levels of achievement, and an assessment toolkit for use by UNC System institutions.

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## Digital Learning Initiative Team Plans Fall Workshop

The UNC System Office Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) will host a workshop on Tuesday, October 25, to collaborate with UNC System institutions on the digital learning initiative objectives.

The objectives of this workshop will be to:

- solicit feedback on a UNC System Certificate in the Fundamentals of Teaching & Learning Online;
- learn what provosts across the country are doing to support the advancement of digital learning on their campuses;
- garner early feedback on what topics and activities should be included in our spring digital learning conference; and,
- provide an update on the UNC System Office Digital Learning Initiative.

For more information, contact John J. Falchi at (919) 843-6743 or email [jjfalchi@northcarolina.edu](mailto:jjfalchi@northcarolina.edu).





## TEAM SPOTLIGHT: End User Services

Introducing the UNC System End User Services team. Formally known as the "help desk" unit, this seven-person team is responsible for helping with all of your technology needs (or at least pointing you in the right direction).

### ***The Services***

This team of techies can support laptops, desktops, and many mobile devices whether you are at the office or a remote location. They are skilled in getting you connected to the network, phone services, and printers. And that's not all. The End User team provides assistance with your conference call and video conferencing needs. The team provides technical support for large meetings and events, including the Board of Governors meetings.

### ***The Team***

Led by Ross A. Yannayon, director of Infrastructure and Operations, the End User group is made up of technically talented teammates, including Moustapha Barry, Kevin Chin, Maya Jackson, Fred Joiner, Mark Laing, and Collin Mayer.

### ***The Plan***

The End User Services team is working to expand the collection of knowledge base articles and other documentation to improve self-service capabilities. They are working to migrate to Sharefile (from MyCloud) for improved file management services and also planning to migrate email services to Microsoft Office 365 (from Exchange).

### ***The Future***

They want to improve how they assist us and will be circulating their team between both buildings. In the near future, you'll be seeing more of each of the team members at the Spangler Center and CSLD. We encourage you to stop them and say hello. They'll be glad to put a face with a name and pleased that they don't have to ask you to put in a ticket for that.

### ***The Support***

To get technical support, email [help@northcarolina.edu](mailto:help@northcarolina.edu) or log in to the Myapps (intranet) and click on the [Help Desk](#) icon.



## Get Social with the UNC\_System

Still don't have a social media account? Sign up for Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Facebook today and follow the UNC\_System. Stay engaged and updated on what's happening across the System.



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