A Conversation with UNC System Interim President

What elements of the UNC System's Strategic Plan would you particularly like to promote so that more North Carolinians understand the work that's being done to ensure that the university better serves its students and the entire state?

As I see it, the core of the Strategic Plan emphasizes that what we are about is delivering education that is faster, more affordable, and convenient. I want every North Carolinian to know that we are working hard so students have more flexibility in terms of their pathways into and through the University, so that they graduate on time, and so that they do so with less debt.
What is one lesson you've learned as an administrator of statewide and national health care organizations that you will bring to bear as interim president of the UNC System?

I have spent most of my career working in the public sector, at the local, state, and federal levels. I worked in George Herbert Walker Bush’s White House. He taught me and others that public service is a noble calling, and I truly believe that.

The lesson I will draw from that experience for this job is this: this is not my University System. It’s not yours. It is the people of North Carolina’s, and I intend to do everything I do with that idea in mind. We are doing this on behalf of the people of North Carolina.

Acknowledging the caveat that priorities inevitably evolve, what work would you like to emphasize in the first months of your leadership of the UNC System?

Immediately, the task before me is to get to know the Board of Governors, the chancellors at each university, and the leadership at our other institutions. I am excited to learn more about each institution that is part of the UNC System.

In the longer term, I am a real Margaret Spellings fan, and I want to continue the very good work that she has begun. The Strategic Plan provides a logical, measurable framework for strengthening the University, and I want to carry this work forward.

To read the full Conversation with Dr. Roper, visit the UNC System homepage.

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WELCOME ABOARD!

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

**Kathy Bryant**, Director of HR Policy, Programs & Planning, Human Resources

**Wes Chancey**, University Compliance Director, Compliance and Audit

**Eric Hunsley**, Classification & Compensation Consultant, Human Resources
ALICE Visits the System Office

The Governance, Legal, and Risk Division, in partnership with Academic and Student Affairs, hosted ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) Training in mid-January. Coordinated by Ed Purchase, the UNC System’s Public Safety Operations and Clery Act Training Coordinator, the training was conducted by ALICE certified officers from the UNC-Chapel Hill Campus Police Department. The training included a presentation, which outlined the appropriate responses to take during an emergency situation, and simulated exercises.

Sorry you missed it? Contact Ed Purchase and find out when the next training will be offered. Want to learn more about ALICE Training? Visit alicetraining.com and watch a training video.

Behavioral Health Convening set for February 6

The 2019 UNC System Behavioral Health Convening will be held on Wednesday, February 6, at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill, NC. Hosted by the UNC System’s Academic and Student Affairs team, this year’s convening will

Rozzie Izlar, Digital Producer, UNCTV
Maya Jackson, Education Communications Specialist, NCSEAA
Austen Nowell, Director of State Government Relations, External Affairs
Kris Silver, Interim Payroll and Leave Administrator, Human Resources
Rebecca Ward, Digital Producer, UNCTV

A LOOK AHEAD

FEBRUARY

February 6 - 2019 Behavioral Health Convening, Friday Center, Chapel Hill
February 7 - 2019 Student Success Conference, Friday Center, Chapel Hill

MARCH

March 27-29 - 2019 UNC System Finance Conference, ECU, Greenville

BOARD OF GOVERNORS Regular Meetings

MARCH 21-22
be an opportunity for institutions to develop ideas, share best practices, and discuss the mechanisms and steps needed to nurture a healthy and resilient student body.

Dr. Daniel Eisenberg, professor of Health Management and Policy and a Faculty Associate at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, will be the featured speaker. He serves as the Director of The Healthy Minds Network for Research on Adolescent and Young Adult Mental Health (HMN), which addresses the connection between the mental health of adolescents and young adults and their health behaviors, physical health, and social, educational, and economic outcomes.

For more information about convening sessions and speakers, visit the conference website or contact Dr. Bethany Meighen.

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**Student Success**

**Conference:**
*A Project of the UNC System Student Success Innovation Lab*

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**PIZZA AND RESOLUTIONS!**

Travel more. Run a 10-miler. Get to the gym. Sound familiar? The Spangler team gathered on January 23 for a pizza party and shared some of their New Year’s resolutions. Stop by the Academic & Student Affairs suite and share your own resolution on the whiteboard. It's not too late!
The divisions of Strategy and Policy and Academic Affairs will host the 2019 Student Success Conference on Thursday, February 7, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Friday Center.

This conference is an opportunity for UNC System institutions to share strategies, initiatives, and programs that help students complete coursework, navigate their degree path more efficiently and graduate on time. Conference sessions will focus on improving student success through teaching and learning, advising and support, and financial aid.

The opening plenary session will feature Bridget Burns, executive director of University Innovation Alliance, a long-time strategist on expanding access to higher education, addressing costs, and promoting completion for students of all backgrounds.

The conference will also feature poster presentations that will showcase innovative work at the universities on summer financial aid, food insecurity, resources for veterans, using data to drive student success, and more.

For more information, visit the 2019 Student Success Conference.
Introducing the First UNC System Competency-Based Graduates

The first UNC System Competency-Based Education (CBE) graduates were pinned during the December 15 graduation at Winston-Salem State University. WSSU celebrated with six nursing students who completed the redesigned curriculum for the RN to BSN degree in just under a year.

This rigorous degree program is not a self-paced, “teacher-less” program; rather, the WSSU “learner-paced” pilot features high-touch faculty interaction with very engaged, quickly-paced students.

Congratulations to the WSSU faculty and staff on this significant accomplishment: Dr. Bridgett Sellars, program director; Lorrie Davis-Dick, CBE coordinator, RN to BSN faculty and doctoral candidate; Dr. Bette Bogden, assessment faculty; Dr. Cecil Holland, associate dean school of nursing; Dr. Peggy Valentine, dean, school of health sciences; and, Dr. Anthony Graham, provost and chief academic officer.
Team Spotlight: Safety and Security

Maintaining a safe environment is a top priority at the UNC System. Brent Herron and Ed Purchase make sure of it. Housed in the Division of Governance, Legal, and Risk, this dynamic duo is responsible for the overall safety and security training and crisis management for the System.

In his role as Associate Vice President of Campus Safety and Emergency Operations, Brent advises the 17 institutions in the areas of campus safety/security, emergency management, and continuity planning. He serves as a direct liaison between the campuses and the local, state, federal, and private agencies to enhance strategic planning and coordinate better preparedness and responses to critical incidents.

Recently, Brent conducted a workshop that covered fire life safety, severe weather, and the emergency notification system. He has worked with campus police departments throughout the year to plan and coordinate active shooter drills and security training.

An alum of East Carolina University, Brent has served the UNC System for 10 years. Prior to his arrival, he was a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service, retiring with 21 years of service. He also worked as a police officer for the Durham Police Department.

Ed serves as the University Public Safety Operations and Clery Act training coordinator and is responsible for coordinating System-level safety training activities. He is the liaison for the
UNC System Clery compliance officers, chair of the UNC System Health and Safety committee and serves on the UNC System Safety and Security committee.

Ed has served the System office for five years, first at UNC-Chapel Hill and then at the System Office. Prior to that, he worked at Broward College and served as an infantry mortarman in the National Guard for eight years, including a one-year tour in Afghanistan.

Together, the team liaisons with the State Bureau of Investigation and the NC. Department of Emergency Management and oversees the security of the System Office and the President’s residence. They coordinate all security training for the System office and recently conducted ALICE Training for staff members.

Get Social with the UNC_System

Follow the UNC System on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Facebook. Stay engaged and updated on what’s happening across the System.