6th Annual Presidents Forum

“Partners in Progress: Presidents, Institutions, and Communities”

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
High Point University
Since entering office, Governor Pat McCrory has worked to improve North Carolina in three key areas: the economy, education and efficiency.

He signed historic tax reform into law that put more money into the paychecks of hard working families by reducing personal and corporate tax rates. This reform is expected to save North Carolinians $4.4 billion over the next five years.

The governor also reformed North Carolina's outdated unemployment insurance system and streamlined the state's workforce development programs, paying off a $2.6 billion debt owed to the federal government, saving employers hundreds of millions of dollars that can be invested in employees, modernization and expansion.

These, and other decisions, have fueled the Carolina Comeback.

When Governor McCrory took office, North Carolina had the fifth-highest unemployment rate in the nation. Today, reforms initiated by Governor McCrory have helped North Carolina's innovative private sector to create more than 260,000 new jobs.

Thanks to the governor's leadership, North Carolina's economy is strong and getting stronger which has allowed the McCrory Administration to make important investments in our state.

Since taking office, more than $1 billion has been invested in raising teacher salaries. Funding for K-12 education was increased by $700 million in the last budget signed by the governor. These investments and others have helped educators achieve the highest high school graduation rate in North Carolina's history.

Governor McCrory is investing in our military and veterans, initiating in-state tuition for veterans at our universities and community colleges as well as streamlining license requirements for those who have received military training in designated fields, such as law enforcement.

Governor McCrory took politics out of highway funding and created a funding formula that prioritizes congestion relief, improved safety and job creation. Budget reforms championed by the governor eliminated annual withdrawals from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund, which will allow for more investment in transportation projects throughout the state, including North Carolina's ports.

He also believes in investing in our future which is why Governor McCrory has spearheaded further investments to prepare for future growth and invest in the next generation of North Carolinians.

Governor McCrory's focus on service reflects his lifelong dedication to improving the lives of others, a fact that was evident to the people of Charlotte who elected him mayor for a record seven terms. Governor McCrory has been married to his wife Ann for 27 years and the couple has a Labrador retriever mix named Moe.
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10:00 a.m. Welcome and introduction of speaker
Nido Qubein, President, High Point University and NC Campus Compact Executive Board Chair
Cottrell Hall, Baur Institute for Executive Education

10:15 a.m. Say Yes to Education: “Partnering with Communities to Make it Possible for Every Child to Have the Opportunity – and Support – to Go to College”
Eugene Chasin, Chief Operating Officer

10:45 a.m. Presidential Showcase: “Campus-Community Partnerships: Institutionalization and Innovation”
Moderator: Jo Allen, President, Meredith College and NC Campus Compact Executive Board member
- Steven Solnick, President, Warren Wilson College
- Steve Ballard, Chancellor, East Carolina University
- Stephen Scott, President, Wake Technical Community College

12:00 p.m. Lunch
Steve Dubb, Director of Special Projects, The Democracy Collaborative “The Road Half Traveled: Achieving the Anchor Promise”
Cottrell Hall, International Ballroom

1:00 p.m. Introduction of Governor
Nido Qubein, President, High Point University
Cottrell Hall, Baur Institute for Executive Education

1:05 p.m. Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina

1:35 p.m. Q & A

1:45 p.m. Conclusion and Reflections
Mary Grant, Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Asheville and national Campus Compact Vice-Chair

2:00 p.m. Departure
Steve Ballard, East Carolina University

Steve Ballard joined East Carolina University as its 10th Chancellor in the spring of 2004. He is now the longest serving Chancellor in the University of North Carolina System. He has been a strong advocate for a mission driven university that is focused on service to our state and on regional transformation in eastern North Carolina. Ballard credits the quality of his leadership team, faculty and staff for the notable steps ECU has taken in the past decade, including significant growth in enrollment, a new College of Engineering, a robust Honors College, the emergence of a full health sciences center that includes a new School of Dental Medicine with Community Service Learning Centers across North Carolina, and acceptance into a major athletic conference. The university has been nationally recognized for its support of the military with the Freedom Award in 2010 and for its commitment to community engagement with the 2012 C. Peter McGrath Award from the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities.

Ballard was a member of the faculty for 25 years at the University of Oklahoma, University of Maine, and Bowling Green State University. He has served in administrative roles since 1986 and has served as a chief research officer, chief academic officer, or chancellor for 17 years. He created the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine and served as its director for nine years.

Dr. Ballard earned his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Arizona and his doctorate in political science from Ohio State University.

Eugene Chasin, Say Yes to Education

Gene Chasin is the Chief Operating Officer of Say Yes to Education. In this role he leads the foundation’s academic efforts in Hartford, Philadelphia, Harlem, Syracuse, and Buffalo. Prior to coming to Say Yes to Education, Gene was the director of the Institute for Urban School Improvement at the University of Connecticut. The Institute served as home for two national school improvement organizations, one state based school support enterprise, and an extensive research agenda. He also served as CEO of Accelerated Schools, one of the largest, longest-lived, most-researched school reform models in the country.

Before his involvement with national school improvement efforts, he served as a superintendent in Massachusetts and was an assistant superintendent in Durham, North Carolina. He also had an extensive administrative career serving in principalships at the elementary and middle school levels. Gene began his career as a teacher. He taught elementary school, special education, and served as a reading specialist. Gene earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies and education from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a Master of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco in educational administration.

Steve Dubb

Steve Dubb is Director of Special Projects and Senior Advisor to the President at The Democracy Collaborative and has been with the Collaborative since 2004. Dubb has been lead author or co-author of a number of publications including Building Wealth: The New Asset-Based Approach to Solving Social and Economic Problems (Aspen, 2005), Linking Colleges to Communities: Engaging the University for Community Development (2007), Growing a Green Economy for All: From Green Jobs to Green Ownership (with Deborah Warren, 2010) and The Road Half Traveled: University Engagement at a Crossroads (with Rita Axelrod Hedges, MSU Press, 2012). In 2013, Dubb led the research team that produced The Anchor Dashboard and is currently working with six universities to pilot community impact measures based on that report.

Dubb has also done community economic development work in many cities, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Denver, Jackson (MS), Jacksonville (FL), Minneapolis, New Haven, New Orleans, Oakland (CA), Pittsburgh, Portland (OR), Richmond (VA) and Washington, DC. Dubb is also part of the Collaborative’s Learning/Action Lab team that is partnering with Native American organizations to develop employee-owned businesses and social enterprises in Indian Country.

Prior to joining the Collaborative, Dubb was Executive Director of the North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO), a U.S. and Canadian nonprofit association that provides education and technical assistance to university and community-based housing and retail cooperatives. Dubb received his Masters and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and his Bachelor’s in Economics (with honors) and Spanish from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mary Grant, University of North Carolina – Asheville

Dr. Mary K. Grant was named UNC Asheville’s seventh chancellor in August 2014, joining the university in January 2015 after serving for 12 years as president of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA).

She has served as the chief academic officer and deputy CEO of UmassOnline and was a senior fellow at the John W. McCormack Institute of Public Affairs at UMass Boston, where she led the institute’s master’s program in public affairs and served as director of the Center for Social Policy. In addition, Dr. Grant served as assistant vice chancellor for administration and finance and human resources at UMass Boston. As president of MCLA, she oversaw growth in enrollment, strengthened the connections between the college and the community, and led the college’s first successful comprehensive capital campaign. Dr. Grant has served as chair of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) leading a planning effort that culminated in bringing the COPLAC executive office to Asheville. Currently she serves as vice chair of the board for National Campus Compact, vice president of the Big South Conference Council of Chief Executive Officers, and as a director of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce.

For her longstanding efforts and contributions, Dr. Grant received the 2014 MCLA Distinguished Alumnus Award and the New England Board of Higher Education’s (NEBHE) Massachusetts State Merit Award. She also received the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I Executive Leadership Award in recognition of her success in increasing MCLAs institutional stature in, and service to, the community. Dr. Grant is the recipient of the 2011 American Council on Education Massachusetts National Network of Women Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award, and served as a member of the Massachusetts Governor’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Advisory Council. She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from MCLA, a master’s degree in public affairs from UMass Boston, a Ph.D. in social policy from The Heller School at Brandeis University, and an honorary degree from Williams College.

Stephen Scott, Wake Technical Community College

Dr. Scott joined Wake Technical Community College in 2003 as the college’s third president. Before coming to Wake Tech, he served as president of Lenoir Community College in Kinston, and as president of Southeastern Community College in Whiteville. From 1999 to 2000, Dr. Scott was executive vice president and chief operating officer of the NC Community College System.

Under Dr. Scott’s leadership, Wake Tech became the largest of North Carolina’s 58 community colleges. In 2008, Dr. Scott was named President of the Year by the NC Board of Community Colleges. He received the 2009 I.E. Ready award from the NCSU Department of Adult and Higher Education and the 2008 Business Leader of the Year Award from Business Leader magazine.

Dr. Scott earned his bachelor’s degree in Economics and his master’s degree in Administration from the University of Tennessee. He holds a doctoral degree in Education from Clemson University.

Steven L. Solnick, Warren Wilson College

Steven L. Solnick serves as the seventh president of Warren Wilson College, in Asheville, NC. Warren Wilson is the only national liberal arts college that fully integrates work and service into its educational model. Solnick assumed the presidency in 2012 after a decade abroad as Ford Foundation Representative in Moscow and then in New Delhi. Before joining the Ford Foundation, Solnick was associate professor of political science at Columbia University, where he also was coordinator for Russian Studies at the Harriman Institute. He is the author of Stealing the State: Control and Collapse in Soviet Institutions, and numerous articles on comparative and post-Soviet politics and political economy. He holds Bachelor’s degrees from MIT and Oxford University (where he was a Marshall Scholar) and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.