



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

NCACES Fall Meeting

October 17th, 2025

11:30 - 2:30 PM

N.C. A&T Farm Pavilion

11:30 - 12 noon

Networking

12 noon

Lunch & Ice Breaker

Welcome and introductions (Dannica Wall, board members)

12:45

Introduction of speakers (Dr. Ray McKinnie and Marq Rogers)

Extension update and professional development opportunities

Dr. Ray McKinnie

Currently in a federal government shutdown. Not sure how long it will last, but Cooperative Extension is continuing to operate with few constraints. He encouraged the group to continue doing their work.

There is still no state budget. Continuing to function as if there is an existing budget. There is an opportunity for a budget increase. Stay tuned. Hopefully the budget will be passed soon.

Dr. McKinnie encouraged everyone to think about the history of Cooperative Extension and how they work to support both land-grant institutions. Think of how we can work together as one Cooperative Extension.

Nov 14 - Grassroots Leadership Conference (CRD) at the NC A&T Farm Pavilion

*NC A&T celebrating 135 years as a land-grant institution (Morrill Act)
Invitation only event*

Marq Rogers

Marq walked the group through a team building exercise. The exercise focused on effective communication while the groups were blindfolded and worked within time limitations.

2:30

Adjourn/Networking/Clean up

2025 Executive Committee

2025 General Board Members



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

President - Dannica Wall (NC State)
President Elect – Beatriz Rodriguez (NC A&T))
Secretary - Marissa Cohen (NC State)
Treasurer - Matt Poore (NC State)
Parliamentarian – Andrew Branan (NC State)
Website Coordinator – Ann Savage (NC State)
Past President – Patrice Dollar (NC A&T)

Biswanath Dari (NC A&T)
Lee Menius (NC State)
Charlotte Glen (NC State)
Katryn Eske (NC A&T)
Robert Andrew Branan (NC State)
Derek Washburn (NC State)
Trequan McGee (NC A&T)



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NCACES Spring Awards Meeting

May 8th, 2025

11:00 - 2 PM

NC State Beef Unit, Lake Wheeler

- 11:00 - 12 noon **Networking**
- 12:30 **Lunch (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Veggies, Sides)**
Welcome and introductions (Beatriz Rodriguez, board members)
Betty opened the meeting after lunch and invited everyone to introduce themselves.
- 12:30 **Introduction of speaker (Sterling Frierson)**
Presentation Slides
Provide information on alternative funding to support Extension programs and for their universities
Dr. Mike Yoder introduced Sterling Frierson. He is the Senior Director of Philanthropy for NC State Extension.

Renee Foster is the fundraiser for NC A&T, so some of this information is different for A&T members.

All gifts to NC State Extension are processed through the NC Agriculture Foundation.

Sterling provided a presentation for the meeting, including examples of philanthropic programs at NC State Extension.

Sterling opened the door to invite the group to share ideas for funding programs.



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They are in the process of updating databases to share information from participants in Extension programs. This information is protected through data integrity measures.

For existing funds, Day of Giving is one of the ways to promote those funding avenues. Advancement can provide input on how to make the messaging more appealing.

Is there a plan to appeal to more audiences? Yes, the information is also shared via social media and additional platforms to reach multiple generations.

For programs that aren't receiving support from Advancement, how does that process get started? Contact your college's advancement contact (Sterling: NC State; Renee: NC A&T).

Marissa will share the Extension Grant information to membership when the 2026 cycle opens.

What is the goal of fundraising? Fundraising can help supplement the federal, state, and county budgets. Can help fill in where we know cuts will occur. Endowments can help with filling positions on hard funds.

1:00

Business Meeting (Sign-in and sign-up sheets circulating)

Nominating Committee, Awards Committee Program Presentation (Lee & Matt)

More nominations this year than in previous years. Award winners receive a certificate and plaque. Matt Poore and Lee Menius presented the award winners with their certificates and plaques.

Outstanding County Support Award: Dr. Stephanie Ward

Hurricane Helene Relief

Outstanding Programming by Individual:

Patrice Dollar

Real Money. Real World.

Outstanding Programming by Team:

Shewana McSwain, Dr. Katryn Eske, and Patrice Dollar



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Try Healthy

Minutes from last meeting; attached (Marissa)

Minutes were approved by the board in the last meeting.

Treasurer Update (Matt)

Three different accounts. Total is \$3800 in hand between the accounts. Having the cookouts has improved the social atmosphere and is much more affordable than the catered meals. The plaques for awards provided by Lee are a great bonus.

Membership (Matt)

Matt encouraged lifetime membership, but we are trying to keep up with the year-to-year memberships as well. 40 active lifetime members and about 20 year-to-year members.

2:00

Adjourn/Networking

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