

Chanel A. Nestor

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Strategic Engagement, Program Management & Regional Development

Education

Master of Business Administration- North Carolina Central University (Expected 2027)

Degree Focus: Real Estate Development, Corporate Social Responsibility, Project Management, Economic Analysis and Marketing Strategy

M.S., Agricultural Education- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2016)

Degree Focus: Rural Community and Economic Development, Agricultural Program Management, and Governmental Policy Analysis

B.A., Sociology- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2013)

Political Science Minor, Global Studies Certificate, Study Abroad- Universidade da Bahia, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil

Degree Focus: Social Development, Social Science Research, Public Administration and African-American History

Relevant Trainings & Certifications

Community Engagement for Local Government- Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership (2025)

Professional in Destination Management - Destinations International (2024)

Graduate Coursework in Sustainability and Environment- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2020)

Urban Planning and Economic Development, P.B.C- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2019)

Community and Economic Development - Purdue Center for Regional Development (2016)

Special Skills

Stakeholder Engagement

Partnership Management

Meeting Facilitation

Strategic Planning

Project Budgeting

Staff Management

Asset Mapping

Advisory Board Coordination

Data Analysis

Project Development

Grant Management

Impact Evaluation

Technology Skills

Slack

Asana

Monday

Salesforce

Qualtrics

ArcGIS

Google Workspace

Microsoft Project

Adobe Creative Suite

Relevant Professional Experience

Community Engagement Project Manager

September 2024- June 2025

Skeo Solutions, Inc. (Position Affected by Federal Budget Cuts and Layoffs)

-Managed contracted Projects under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Redevelopment (SRP) Program, Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program and Get the Lead Out (GLO) initiative

-Managed budgets and work plans for multiple projects with varying deadlines and overseeing others with work

-Coordinated and led management for a wide range of in-person events including meetings, workshops and training

Major Site Redevelopment Projects Supported: Philadelphia Energy Solutions, Philadelphia, PA; The Interstate Lead Company, Leeds, AL; American Creosote Works Inc. Pensacola, Florida; Acme Steel Coke Plant, Chicago, IL; Cristex Drum, Oxford, NC

Project Manager, NC Rural Tourism Recovery Pilot

January 2023-January 2024

Visit North Carolina, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (Statewide, NC)

-Managed a 12-month [\\$1.5 million dollar rural tourism promotion campaign](#) on behalf of the North Carolina General Assembly

-Collaborated with the project corporate sponsor, Airbnb, to deliver regular reporting and tracking

-Facilitated communication with the 16 participating rural counties

-Tracked and managed program budget and timeline to ensure alignment with scope of work and project deliverables

-Collected and researched data for project evaluations and reporting

Community Project Coordinator, [BCJI Grant](#)

October 2022- April 2024

City of Salisbury, North Carolina

-Managed a \$800,000 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation grant awarded to Salisbury Police Department by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP-DOJ) for a place-based solution to crime prevention.

-Funded 23 citywide nonprofit organizations for youth and family summer programming in collaboration with the United Way

-Developed a small business facade grant and traffic calming project with the city planning department

-Developed a neighborhood lighting improvement project with the city manager's office and engineering department

-Created programming and allocated funds to support the neighborhood with developing a self-determining neighborhood community development corporation

Adjunct Lecturer of Rural Sociology and Sociology

July 2018- January 2022

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

-Instructing virtual and in-person courses on Rural Community and Economic Development, Introduction to Local Food Systems, and Global Agricultural Economics, Hunger, and Poverty

-Using Instructional Technology to Enhance Pedagogical Technique

-Participating in Data Collection and Assessment of Student Learning

Workforce & Economic Development Analyst

January 2022-May 2022

Forsyth County Community and Economic Development

- Researched, applied, and was awarded a [\\$50,000 Inspire Award through the Appalachian Regional Commission](#) to develop workforce development programming for Forsyth County citizens recovering from substance use disorder
- Performed project management duties related to the development and coordination of workforce development initiatives
- Planned, coordinated, and executed meetings and events with local businesses, partners, educational institutions and citizens
- Identified and Analyzed workforce and economic trends and utilizes the information to implement new or adjust existing programs

Project Coordinator, [CREATE BRIDGES](#)

October 2020-January 2022

North Carolina State University-Cooperative Extension

- Developed regional business retention and workforce development strategies to build the capacity of retail, entertainment, accommodations, and tourism industries in the rural communities of the Mountain-West region of North Carolina
- Coordinated and documented a regional asset mapping and business inventorying process
- Provided project management support and facilitated the regional strategic planning process
- Compiled and Disseminated project results through state/national networks and project sponsor, Walmart Foundation
- Supported regional strategies by catalyzing partnerships with local, state and national resources

Community Engagement Associate, The Partnership for Prosperity

March 2019- September 2019

United Way of Forsyth County

- Managing a project board led by the Mayor of Winston-Salem, city council members, and public sector leadership
- Identifying leaders in low-income neighborhoods and developing engaging, strategic meetings
- Coordinating the efforts of five to six agencies conducting "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By-World" classes
- Assisting the director in developing, implementing and monitoring a strategic work plan to reduce poverty in Forsyth County

Entrepreneurial Experience

Business Development and Operations Partner

January 2020-November 2025

The Jugo Bar- Fresh Beverage Company, Winston-Salem, NC

- Developed and managed corporate relationships with hotel, hospital, restaurant and regional farmers market vendors
- Forecasted product demands, created annual budgets, planned expenses, examined deviations and took remedial action
- Implemented improvements through analyzing and improving organizational processes, employee needs, and space requirements

Community Engagement Contract Experience

Community Engagement Representative (6-month contract)

May 2024-November 2024

Site Labs Global (Piedmont Triad Region, NC)

- Collected program data in order to effectively measure and communicate impact to the project sponsor, Cone Health
- Contributed to the development of marketing material to promote the program
- Developed and implemented outreach strategies to engage community groups and organizations
- Initiated and cultivated partnerships with local businesses and educational institutions
- Organized and helped run wellness events within program budget for each independent pharmacy in their community

Community Engagement Manager (10-month contract)

April 2022-December 2022

Public Participation Partners Consulting

- Served as Project Manager for community outreach and engagement project efforts
- Clients Worked with: Avista Utilities, NC DOT, SC DOT, AECOM, Raleigh-Durham International Airport, GoTriangle
- Oversaw outreach planning, cultivated stakeholder relationships, facilitated meetings, and analyzed data

Policy and Outreach Manager (16-month contract)

July 2019-December 2020

Carolina Creative Works

- Served as the Engagement Manager for the [Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council \(PTRFC\) Food System Assessment](#)
- Defined and integrated diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into all outreach efforts in partnership with the PTRFC
- Designed, actualized, and evaluated an Engagement Plan that meets research and data collection needs for the assessment
- Recruited, supervised, and managed apprentices from NC A&T State University to assist with outreach and data collection

Farmers Market Manager, Healthy Alamance (12-month contract)

August 2019-August 2020

Piedmont Conservation Council

- Overseeing the creation of a local operational model for Alamance County farmers' markets.
- Developing and implementing a strategic marketing campaign for Alamance County farmers' markets and local farms
- Create new and innovative market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets
- Serving on the Alamance Food Collaborative Board

Internship Experience

Real Estate Project Management Graduate Intern

May 2026-August 2026

Self-Help Credit Union, Durham, NC

- Supporting the creation of financial models to assess the feasibility of sites
 - Participating in site analysis projects to determine if a site is better suited for small-unit development, larger-scale public subsidies or other low-income tax credits
 - Participating in site visits to assess property conditions
 - Cottage court zoning research, in select rural communities within the Self-Help Credit Union footprint
- Sites Supported: Kesler Mill, Salisbury, NC; Great Aunt Stella Center, Charlotte, NC; Revolution Mill, Greensboro, NC

NC Growing Together Local Food Supply Chain Apprentice, NC State University May 2017-July 2017

Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC), Kernersville, NC

- Worked with PTRC Planning Staff and Community Stakeholders to Develop a Regional Food Council in the Piedmont Triad Area
- Supported PTRC and Community Food Strategies with event coordination for the Piedmont Triad Food Council Gathering
- Created an Initial Review of the Piedmont Triad Local Food System
- Communicated with and Identified Regional and Statewide Community Stakeholders
- Utilized ArcGIS to Identify Possible Business and Political Stakeholders Located in or Representing Low Food Access Areas

Thurgood Marshall College Fund Intern, Human Resource Management May 2016- August 2016

United States Department of Agriculture- U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Albuquerque, NM

- Responsible for the Creation and Disbursement of a Survey which captured the experiences of USFS Pathways Interns, Recent Graduates, and Fellows to be used in modifying the Pathways program
- Developed a Visual Employee Outreach Presentation for the LGBTQ Special Emphasis Inclusion Program
- Created a Forest Service Welcome Presentation focusing on African Americans that are new to the Albuquerque Area

Community Programs Specialist Student Trainee, Rural Development September 2015- April 2016

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Indianapolis, IN

- Part of a Statewide Team Responsible for Reviewing and Approving Loan and Grant Applications for both the Community Facilities and Water and Waste Disposal Programs in Rural Areas of Indiana
- Attending Stronger Economies Together Initiative Regional Meetings
- Received a Community and Economic Development Training Certification from Purdue Center for Regional Development

Graduate Student Intern, Innovations in Manufactured Housing Program October 2014 - December 2014

Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), Washington, D.C.

- Compiled Contact Information for the Innovations in Manufactured Housing Conference into an Accessible Database
- Conducted Needs Assessments for States with High and Low Percentages of Manufactured Housing Homeowners

Community Scholar Intern, National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling (NFMC) June 2014 - August 2014

Neighborworks America, Atlanta GA

- Researched Foreclosure and its Effect on Rural Minorities in the Southern Black Belt Region
- Responsible for Analyzing Qualitative and Quantitative Data Received from Program Grantees and Foreclosure Counselors to be used in NeighborWorks America's Tenth Congressional Report

Community Development Intern, East Market Street Development Corporation January 2013-June 2013

- Proposed Community Revitalization Ideas for East Greensboro Neighborhoods
- Proposed, Planned, and Executed Community Meetings with Local Officials and Residents
- Educating Community Residents of the Economic Resources Available in East Greensboro
- Leading Community Clean-ups in Distressed Communities of East Greensboro

Professional and Academic Research

"Piedmont Triad Regional Food System Assessment", Fall 2021

Principal Investigator: Emily Edmonds, MPA, Carolina Creative Works

"Black Aesthetics and Everyday Aesthetics" Case Study, Fall 2020

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Aaron Allen, Associate Professor of Musicology, UNC-Greensboro

"Transportation Art Policy and Implementation in Greensboro, North Carolina" Policy Brief and Visual Aid, Spring 2019

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Allison Bramwell, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UNC-Greensboro

"Piedmont Triad Initial Food System Review" Visual Aid, Summer 2017

Supervisor: Elizabeth Jernigan, Assistant Planning Director, Piedmont Triad Regional Council

"African American Inherited Rural Land Assessment Program" Logic Model and Program Plan, Fall 2015

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Terrence Thomas, Professor of Agribusiness, NC A&T State University

"Foreclosures and Rural Minority Homeowners of the Southern Black Belt Region" Pamphlet, Visual Aid, and Research Paper, Summer 2014

Project Mentor: Vivien Rayam, Sr. Program Manager, Peer Learning & Communications, Neighborworks America

"The Black Belt of the American South: A Socio-Economic Profile" Visual Aid and Course Research Paper, Fall 2013

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Gray, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology, NC A&T State University

"The Influence of Culture on Undergraduate Food Choices on a Historically Black College and University Campus", Fall 2013

Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Johnson, Associate Professor of Anthropology, NC A&T State University

Creative and Archival Projects

Curator and Coordinator, ["Don't Wait Til It's Cool"](#)

February 2018- Present

"Don't Wait Til It's Cool": A NC Hip-Hop Photography Exhibit explores the relationship between North Carolina's hip-hop culture, music venues, and the various photographers that capture those artists on stage and beyond. This exhibition features photographic works from artists that have supported North Carolina's Hip Hop Community through their lenses.

Showings: July 2018, Blkmrkt, Camp North End-Charlotte, NC;

July 2018, Downtown Durham, NC- A public space exhibition

August 2018, Jacksonville-Onslow Council for the Arts, Jacksonville, NC;

January-February 2019, NC Museum of History, Raleigh, NC;

September-October 2019, The Carrack Modern Art, Durham, NC;

October 2023- The Frame, Charlotte, NC

Founder and Coordinator, [The Bailey Conference](#)

December 2017- December 2018

The Bailey Conference, named in honor of the first African-American county agricultural extension agent in North Carolina, Neil Alexander Bailey, builds upon the commonality of culture and race as an engagement tool for inter-generational individuals in the Agricultural and Rural Community Development fields.

Exhibitors: The Special Collections Research Center at North Carolina State University Libraries, F.D. Bluford Library, The Agricultural Biotechnology on Food, Energy, and Water Systems Program at NC State University, The North Carolina AgrAbility Partnership at North Carolina A&T State University, and The NC Rural Center.

Sponsored by The NC Rural Center, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Self-Help Credit Union & Community Food Strategies

Principal and Coordinator, [The Happy Hill Gardens Family Photography Project](#)

December 2020- Present

The Happy Hill Gardens Family Photograph Project provides a resting place for an archive of photographs taken by community members in an effort to preserve a community which was displaced by urban renewal. The images will be a part of a digital archive housed at the O'Kelly Library at Winston Salem State University.

Project Funded by The Winston-Salem Foundation

Project Director, [The North Carolina Black Creative Conference](#)

April 2021- Present

A 10-Event Series Hosted at Black Owned Spaces in Charlotte, NC which promotes the invaluable contribution of interdisciplinary black creatives who have defined the arts and culture of North Carolina on their own terms.

Project Funded by The Infusion Fund- Foundation for the Carolinas and the City of Charlotte

Honors, Activities, and Community Service

Member, International Society of Sustainability Professionals

Member, American Planning Association

Member, Rural Sociological Society

Conference Coordinator Volunteer, Global Forum for Plant-Based and Alternative Proteins- 2025-2026

Marketing Chair, Greensboro Transit Advisory Council- 2023-2025

Participant, UPLIFT Rural Tourism Incubator & Accelerator-2025

Volunteer Grant Writer and Project Volunteer, Triad Black Faith Leaders and Black Farmers Network- 2024

Recipient, National Extension Tourism- Excellence in Tourism Award- 2021

Advisory Board Member, North Carolina Food Resiliency Report- 2020-2021

NEA Our Town Grant, Happy Hill Community Cultural Asset Mapping Team Member, UNC School of the Arts-2020

Event Presenter, African American Cultural Celebration, North Carolina Museum of History- 2019

Conference Assistant, Annual NC Minority Farmers and Landowners Conference- 2019

Conference Presenter, Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration- UNC-Chapel Hill- 2019

Steering Committee Member, Davidson County Local Food Network 2018-2019

Volunteer, Center for Environmental Farming Systems 2018-2019

Meeting Co-Organizer and Speaker, Piedmont Triad Regional Food Council Gathering- 2017

Volunteer Grant Writer and Project Volunteer, Winston Lake Community Garden Project- 2015-2016

Conference Speaker, NC A&T Student Entrepreneurship Conference- 2015

Conference Speaker, Children of Lesbian and Gays Everywhere- 2015

Council on International Educational Exchange Participant, Universidade da Bahia, Salvador da Bahia, Brazil- 2013