



N.C. Association of
Cooperative Extension Specialists

NCACES Spring Awards Meeting Minutes

May 24 2023

12-2 PM

NC State Beef Unit, Lake Wheeler

Networking 11:45-12:15

12:00 Lunch Starting (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Salad, Sides)

12:15 Welcome and brief Introductions. (Steve Hall, Board Members)

Member Introductions; Superpowers and How We Use Them, Thanks

Steve Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting after lunch. He then asked each person to introduce themselves by telling their name, area of expertise, work location and their “superpower”, or a soft skill.

1:00 Speaker Garey Fox: Vision for CALS and Extension, Brief Q&A

Garey Fox was our speaker for the meeting. Garey is the incoming CALS Dean. Garey shared that he was very excited to be with our group and began by addressing two common questions he has been asked: 1. How will he be different from Rich Linton, former CALS Dean? and 2. Why is he waiting until August 1 to start in his new role? Garey came from Oklahoma State to learn from and be mentored by Rich Linton. He has opted for a longer transition time so he can tie up some loose ends professionally in his current position of department head for BAE and as a journal editor. His goal between now and August 1 is to learn as much as possible about the college and meet as many people as possible. Garey believes that Extension in NC is top notch and our efforts are very much appreciated. He has visited with the research stations and wants to visit each county Extension office as well. So far, he has already met with the Farm Bureau, Steve Troxler, and the staff at NCDA&CS. He has started connecting with folks via LinkedIn, so if you get an invite to connect with him, it is not a scam! Garey shared that he has a passion for youth programming, FFA, connecting with youth and youth development. He talked about continuing urbanization in North Carolina, as well as managing the impacts of climate change. As the digital age continues to progress, Extension is being looked to provide digital support as broadband access increases and precision ag continues to grow. Garey wrapped up his address by talking about the importance of professional development and employee retention through competitive salaries. He encouraged everyone to invite him to their events and he will do his best to make it out to them as much as possible. He will also be continuing to do listening tours across the state.

We then had a Q&A session.



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1. What are your thoughts on strengthening the connection/relationship between NC State and NC A&T?
 - a. Garey has reached out to their dean and recognizes this is a partnership. He also has a great working relationship with their administration.
2. What has been your biggest challenge so far?
 - a. Time and learning the university systems at a higher level
3. What advice would you give departments when decisions are made that we don't necessarily agree with or understand?
 - a. Look at things from a different perspective
4. What steps do you want to take to build a team to address mental health in students and employees?
 - a. Mental health touch points at the department head level (open door policy) and creating a touch point culture in the college.
5. Do you see AI as something that we will use in Extension?
 - a. Absolutely; it is coming and will change the way people receive information. One challenge: How do we know the information is valid?
6. What about digital readiness for employees?
 - a. AI initiative through provost's office will be released soon.
7. We are constantly overloaded with emails that may or may not be relevant to us. How will you address this issue?
 - a. Gary met with the new Communications Director for CALS and will be discussing information overload with her as they meet in the future.

1:30 Business Meeting (Sign Up Sheet Circulating)

Minutes from last meeting (Marissa Cohen)

Marissa presented the minutes from the Winter NCACES meeting to the membership present. Lauren Greene moved to approve the minutes as presented, the motion was seconded and they were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Update – Matt Poore

Our accounts are currently in good standing with over \$4000 total. Lifetime memberships helped boost the accounts, but these are one-time payments, rather than continuous income from yearly memberships.

Nominating Committee

Steve Hall encouraged members to sign up for the nominating committee or to join us on the board. Sign up sheets circulated to encourage members to sign up for one or more of the six committees.



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Membership

Matt Poore encouraged members to invite their colleagues to become members of NCACES. Historically, this organization had hundreds of members, but unfortunately these numbers have waned as time progressed.

Special Projects

Ann had no update on special projects, but did encourage members to join her on the committee.

1:40 Awards Presentations: Matt Poore and Awards Committee

Three awards were presented to members:

- 1. Support of county programs: Lucy Bradley**
- 2. Team program award: Marissa Cohen, Adam Fahrenholz, Lee Menius, Sara Drake**
- 3. Individual programming award: Diedre Harmon, presented by Kendra Phipps**

1:45 Adjourn and Fellowship/Networking

Steve adjourned the meeting and encouraged members to continue their conversations/networking.

2023 Executive Committee

President - Steve Hall
President Elect –Alyssa McKim
Secretary - Marissa Cohen
Treasurer - Matt Poore
Parliamentarian – Shannon Wiley
Webmaster – Ann Savage
Past President – Lee Menius

2022 General Board Members

R Andrew Branan
Patrice Dollar
Charlotte Glen
Lauren Greene
Dannica Wall
Derek Washburn