

GUILFORD
COLLEGE

GUILFORD DIALOGUES



GUILFORD DIALOGUES

June 6-7, 2024

Guilford College • Greensboro, N.C.



BUILDING STRATEGIES *for* ECONOMIC INCLUSION

www.guilford.edu/GuilfordDialogues



WELCOME TO GUILFORD COLLEGE!

Guilford College is an independent, historic liberal-arts institution founded in 1837. True to its Quaker roots, Guilford prepares students to become ethical leaders who are ready to contribute to their communities and succeed at work, graduate, or professional school. The College has 1,200 students and more than 20,000 alumni globally.

GUILFORD DIALOGUES:

Building Strategies for Economic Inclusion



All panels will take place in Sternberger Auditorium, Founders Hall. We will have available spaces on campus for hospitality needs, computer charging, phone calls, etc.

DAY 1: THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. **Welcome** ▪ President Kyle Farmbry, Guilford College
- 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. **Panel** ▪ **Setting the Stage: A Conversation with Community Leaders**
Panelists: Hank Smith, Audrey Trussel, Cynthia Wallace, Omar Woodard, Martin Acevedo (moderator)
As the cornerstone of the Guilford Dialogues conference, this panel sets the stage for a deep dive into building strategies for economic inclusion by engaging directly with community leaders. In this candid and insightful conversation, esteemed leaders from diverse backgrounds and sectors will share their experiences, challenges and successes in fostering economic inclusion within their communities. From grassroots activists to business pioneers and government officials, panelists will offer unique perspectives on the complex interplay between policy, advocacy and community engagement in advancing economic equity. Through lively discussion and interactive dialogue, attendees will gain valuable insights into the local context, emerging trends and collaborative approaches shaping efforts toward inclusive economic development. This panel serves as an inspiring starting point for the conference, highlighting the critical role of community leadership in driving meaningful change and setting the tone for constructive collaboration throughout the event.
- 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. **Panel** ▪ **Economic Development: Workforce, Training and Job Creation**
Panelists: Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Sharon Contreras, Marek Gootman, Fred Henry, Wendy Walker-Fox, Stephen Sills (moderator)
In the quest for economic inclusion, fostering workforce development, providing effective training and generating sustainable job opportunities are paramount. This panel delves into the intricate dynamics of economic development, focusing on strategies to empower communities through skill enhancement, job creation and equitable access to employment opportunities. Expert speakers will share insights into innovative approaches, successful initiatives and the role of public-private partnerships in fostering economic growth that benefits all members of society. From addressing skills gaps to leveraging technology for training, the panel will explore multifaceted solutions aimed at building a more resilient and inclusive economy, helping attendees gain actionable strategies and best practices for driving economic development and ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of prosperity.
- 10:45 - 11 a.m. **Table Dialogue** ▪ **Economic Development: Workforce, Training and Job Creation**
- 11 - 11:15 a.m. **BREAK**
- 11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. **Panel** ▪ **Entrepreneurship: Catalyst for Inclusive Growth**
Panelists: Rama Chakaki, Sterling Johnson, Tyrome Smith, Dee Stokes (moderator)
This panel delves into the transformative power of entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive growth in our communities. In this dynamic exchange, entrepreneurs, policymakers, venture capitalists, angel investors and business leaders converge to share invaluable insights and strategies aimed at creating an ecosystem that champions

diversity, equity and opportunity. Discover how venture capital and angel investors are actively engaging with underserved communities, fueling entrepreneurial spirit and unlocking new pathways to economic empowerment. Explore innovative approaches to fostering entrepreneurship among underrepresented groups, dismantling barriers to entry and cultivating a supportive environment for small and medium enterprises to thrive. From advocating for inclusive business practices to implementing policies that prioritize diversity and equity, this panel will illuminate the multifaceted role of entrepreneurship in driving social inclusion and economic prosperity. Whether you're an aspiring entrepreneur seeking guidance, an investor looking to make meaningful contributions, a policymaker shaping the landscape or an advocate for equitable opportunities, this discussion promises valuable perspectives and actionable approaches to harnessing the full potential of entrepreneurship for the benefit of all.

- 12:15 - 12:30 p.m. Table Dialogue ▪ Entrepreneurship: Catalyst for Inclusive Growth
- 12:30 - 2 p.m. Lunch with Featured Speaker ▪ Surya Kolluri, Head of TIAA Institute
- 2 - 2:15 p.m. BREAK
- 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Panel ▪ Aging Together: Building an Inclusive Economy
Panelists: Corinne Auman, Stacey Blyth, Gene Brown, Joyce Rice, Gizelle Clemens (moderator)
This panel will explore the intersection of societal aging and economic inclusivity, focusing on the opportunities and challenges an aging population presents. Our panel of experts will delve into innovative strategies for creating an economy that accommodates older adults' diverse needs and contributions. From employment opportunities and entrepreneurship to access to healthcare and financial security, we will examine key pillars of economic inclusion for our aging population. Additionally, we'll explore the role of intergenerational collaboration and community engagement in fostering a more inclusive society for people of all ages. Whether you're a policymaker, business leader, caregiver or advocate, this discussion offers insights into harnessing the potential of an aging society to drive economic growth and social progress.
- 3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Table Dialogues ▪ Aging Together: Building an Inclusive Economy
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Panel ▪ Housing: Strategies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future
Panelists: Stephanie Glenn, Hugh Holston, Robert Hutchins, Robert Powell, Phelps Sprinkle, James Cox (moderator)
Discover innovative solutions and collaborative approaches to address our communities' pressing need for sustainable and inclusive housing. In this panel discussion, experts from various fields will explore strategies for creating housing solutions that are socially equitable and economically viable. From affordable housing initiatives and urban planning policies to community development models, we'll examine diverse approaches to promote sustainability and inclusivity in housing. Whether you are a policymaker, urban planner, developer, advocate or community member, this panel offers valuable insights and actionable steps to create housing that meets the needs of all community members and drives positive change in housing practices for a more sustainable and inclusive future.
- 4:30 - 4:45 p.m. Table Dialogue ▪ Housing: Strategies for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future
- 4:45 - 5 p.m. Day 1 Closing and Final Thoughts
- 5 - 6:30 p.m. Reception in Founders Hall
- 7 - 9 p.m. Evening Keynote: Raj Chetty, William A. Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University and the Director of Opportunity Insights
Sternberger Auditorium

- 8:30 - 8:35 a.m. Day 2 Welcome
- 8:35 - 9:35 a.m. **Panel ■ Generational Hand Me Downs: Wealth, Poverty and the Space In Between**
 Panelist: Catherine 'Katy' Crosby, Grant Duffield, Mark Kirstner, Aimy Steele, Milagros Russell (moderator)
 Frank McCain, CEO, United Way of Greater Greensboro will introduce the Panel. Panelists will engage in an insightful discussion that delves into the intricate dynamics of wealth transfer across generations and its impact on socioeconomic disparities. From inherited advantages to systemic barriers, our expert speakers will explore the complexities of intergenerational wealth and poverty, shedding light on the opportunities and challenges for creating a more equitable society. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the intersection of economics, social justice and generational dynamics.
- 9:35 - 9:50 a.m. **Table Dialogue ■ Generational Hand Me Downs: Wealth, Poverty and the Space In Between**
- 9:50 - 10 a.m. BREAK
- 10 - 11 a.m. **Panel ■ Empowering Futures: The Role of Colleges and Universities in Encouraging Economic Inclusion**
 Panelist: Danielle Heider, Hope Williams, Mark Justad (moderator)
 Mark Justad, Director of the Center for Principled Problem Solving and Excellence in Teaching at Guilford College, will introduce the Panel. Panelists will explore how institutions of higher education can play a pivotal role in fostering economic inclusion and equity. Educators, policymakers and community leaders will examine various strategies colleges and universities employ to support students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, including scholarships, mentorship programs and career development initiatives. We'll also delve into the importance of curriculum diversity, campus resources and partnerships with local communities in creating pathways to economic empowerment. Whether you are a student, faculty member or community stakeholder, this discussion promises valuable insights into the transformative potential of higher education in shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.
- 11 - 11:15 a.m. **Table Dialogue ■ Empowering Futures: The Role of Colleges and Universities in Encouraging Economic Inclusion**
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Lunch with Featured Speaker ■ Kory Bailey, CEO of UpSurge Baltimore**
- 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. **Re-Entry Simulation in the Carnegie Room, Hege Academic Commons**
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. **Panel ■ Unlocking Potential: Creating an Inclusive Economy for Justice-Impacted Individuals**
 Panelists: Heath Brown, Victor Vincent, Rehshetta Wells (moderator)
 This panel focuses on the critical intersection of justice reform and economic inclusion, examining strategies to create economic stability and empowerment pathways for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. Despite facing significant barriers to employment and economic participation, justice-impacted individuals possess an untapped potential that, when unlocked, can drive both personal and community-wide prosperity. Through insightful discussions and real-world examples, panelists will explore innovative approaches to breaking down systemic barriers, providing access to education, training and entrepreneurial opportunities, and fostering supportive environments for successful reintegration into society. From advocating for policy reforms to cultivating inclusive workplaces, this panel will address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in creating an economy where justice-impacted individuals can thrive. By examining these innovative strategies and highlighting successful initiatives, this discussion aims to inspire actionable solutions for fostering economic resilience and reducing recidivism.
- 3:30 - 4 p.m. **Debrief Session and Next Steps**

GUILFORD DIALOGUES SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker

Raj Chetty is William A. Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University and the Director of Opportunity Insights, which uses big data to study the science of economic opportunity. Raj's work has been widely cited in academia, media outlets and policy discussions in the United States and beyond. Raj received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2003 and is one of the youngest tenured professors in Harvard's history. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University. He has received numerous awards for his research, including a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the John Bates Clark medal, given to the economist under 40 whose work is judged to have made the most significant contribution to the field, and Harvard's George Ledlie prize, awarded for research that made the most valuable contribution to science, or in any way for the benefit of mankind. He is a native of New Delhi, India, and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1988.



Featured Speakers

Surya Kolluri is Head of TIAA Institute and is recognized as a thought leader in retirement and healthy aging research. The TIAA Institute conducts cutting-edge research in the areas of financial and longevity literacy, lifetime income, retirement plan design and behavioral finance for higher education and the broader nonprofit sector. Surya sits on the board of the Wharton Pension Research Council and the advisory councils of Georgetown Center for Retirement Research, the Retirement Research Center of DCIIA and the MA/NH Chapter of the U.S. Alzheimer's Association. In 2021, he received The President's Volunteer Service Award via AmeriCorps in recognition for commitment to strengthen communities. Surya has spoken at the U.N. Silver Economy Forum, World Economic Forum, Tokyo G20 Summit on Aging and Financial Inclusion and White House Conference on Aging, among other events. He joined the TIAA Institute from Bank of America, where he was managing director of the Retirement Research and Insights team. Surya holds an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University.



With more than a decade of leadership in early-stage start-ups and big tech, **Kory Bailey** has emerged as a thought leader on equitable economic growth and champion for the Baltimore tech ecosystem. He is the Chief Executive Officer of UpSurge Baltimore, an ecosystem-building organization with a vision for Baltimore to be recognized as the first Equitech hub in the world; a new model for American innovation. He is an ecosystem builder and servant leader seeking opportunities to leverage his relationships, talents, and resources to support successful outcomes for individuals and communities. Kory has been recognized as a 2022 Technical.ly RealLIST Connectors Award winner and 2023 RealLIST Tech Community Leader of the Year nominee.



Panelists



Dedrick Asante-Muhammad is President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that creates ideas to improve the socioeconomic status and civic engagement of African Americans. He has dedicated his career to understanding and tackling racial and economic inequities. Previously, he was vice president for Racial Economic Equity and Research at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. Before joining NCRC, Dedrick served as director, senior fellow and founder of the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative for Prosperity Now. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from Williams College and a master's degree in Systematic Theology from Union Theological Seminary.



Corinne Auman is the author of the book *Keenagers: Telling a New Story about Aging*. She earned her Ph.D. at N.C. State University, where she studied Developmental Psychology with a specialty in adulthood and aging. She is an experienced educator and researcher, currently serving as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Gerontology at Winston-Salem State University. Corinne is also the founder and CEO of Choice Care Navigators, a geriatric care management agency, where she and her team guide older adults and families as they navigate the healthcare system. She is a nationally certified guardian and an advanced professional member of the Aging Lifecare Association.



Stacy Blyth serves as Medical Director for Primary Care, Head of the Family Medicine Service at Cone Health and President of LeBauer Healthcare. After entering SUNY at Buffalo Medical School, she became a National Health Service Corp scholar with a commitment to pursue primary care. Twenty-five years in medicine has made her aware that health is a complex web of genetics, life experience and personal actions but also a collective commitment to caring for each other and building infrastructures that support health and wellness. Stacy works to help her patients age gracefully. She is reminded daily of the need for a renewed commitment to building societal structures that support all of us in the pursuit of a long healthy life.



Gene Brown is the President and Executive Director of Community Housing Solutions (CHS), a nonprofit organization that makes Guilford County homes warmer, drier and safer by providing repairs and ownership opportunities for low-income homeowners. Gene was instrumental in the creation of the Aging Gracefully program, a partnership between CHS and Cone Health that empowers elderly homeowners to live longer and safer in their homes. Prior to joining CHS, Gene enjoyed a 22-year career in the group health insurance industry working with UnitedHealthcare, PHP and The Travelers. He graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Mathematics. Gene is active in the community through the Greensboro Airport Rotary Club, and he is a graduate of Leadership North Carolina.



Heath Brown '96 is an associate professor of public policy at the City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He earned his bachelor's degree in History at Guilford College and his master's and Ph.D. at The George Washington University. He is the author of six books, including the recently released *Roadblocked: Joe Biden's Rocky Transition to the Presidency*, the first book focused squarely on the chaotic transfer of power from Donald Trump to Joe Biden.



Rama Chakaki is a Syrian-American impact tech entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist and a general partner in Transform VC, a Silicon Valley firm enabling 1000 tech founders to impact a billion and make a billion by investing in deep tech with climate and social impact. Rama was instrumental in building the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Middle East. In addition to her corporate roles, she runs an edTech nonprofit (VIP.fund) supporting youth impacted by conflict. Rama has been featured in *Forbes*, *Bloomberg*, *the Monitor*, *Arab Women Rising*, a Wharton School of Business Publication and *The Power of Presence*, a book by Joy Moore.



Sharon L. Contreras is the CEO of The Innovation Project. She has been superintendent of two public school districts and is respected across the nation for implementing policies and strategies aimed at improving life outcomes for all students. In Guilford County, she expanded career technical education and Advanced Placement programs, as well as access to workforce readiness programming to prepare students and their parents for high-wage jobs. GCS' high-dosage tutoring initiative and high-school learning hubs are considered a national model for addressing unfinished learning. Sharon has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis and an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.A. in English Literature, M.A. in Teaching and B.A. in English Literature from the SUNY-Binghamton.



Catherine "Katy" Crosby serves as Chief of Community Engagement and Institutional Accountability for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In this capacity, she works with NCRC's network of member organizations, financial institutions, policymakers, and others to ensure opportunities for all Americans to build wealth. Before joining NCRC, Katy spent 20 years in local government including as the Town Manager for the Apex (N.C.) and the Chief of Staff for the City of Toledo (Ohio), serving as the chief executive officer and city administrator overseeing day-to-day operations.



Grant Duffield currently serves the City of Greensboro as the Neighborhood Improvement Manager in the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department. In this capacity, Grant works to support the city's five designated Reinvestment Neighborhoods (Dudley Heights, Random Woods, Kings Forest, Mill District and Glenwood) with particular focus on neighborhood organization capacity building and affordable housing development/retention. He also actively supports the city's Community Land Trust formation process and serves as the city's liaison to Greensboro's Faith community around issues of affordable housing and homelessness. Previously, Grant worked with the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem overseeing a \$600 million comprehensive neighborhood redevelopment project. A graduate of UNCG, he also served the communities of Charlottesville, Va., and Tega Cay, S.C.



Stephanie Glenn is Senior Vice President, Diversity Engagement, for the Community Foundation of Richmond (Va.). In her role, she leads fundraising for economic and racial justice in housing. In 2018, Stephanie spearheaded the groundbreaking Giving Black® Greater Richmond study, a two-year, in-depth analysis that reshaped the understanding of the trends and impacts of Black philanthropy in central Virginia. Stephanie graduated from Wilberforce University (Ohio) and earned her master's in Public Administration from Wright State University (Ohio). In 2023, she received the Money Moves Award from HER Collective RVA for her commitment to funding transformative initiatives.



Focused on bridging the think tank perspective with real world action, **Marek Gootman** works with public-private collaboratives on advancing competitiveness and vitality through research, strategy, program design, policy, and implementation. Marek is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and prior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Global Initiatives, as well as Managing Principal of Cities GPS. He brings experience with more than 60 city-regions and states on topics like cluster-building, economic and workforce development system alignment, entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure, trade, financing and governance. Over the past six years, he has helped to create and execute comprehensive inclusive economy initiatives with 10 regions and three states.



Danielle Heider '12 has worked with individuals with disabilities for more than 20 years in a variety of capacities. She serves as a learning specialist at Beacon College (Fla.), which is dedicated to exclusively serving students with learning differences and is active in the community. Most recently, she served as an expert panelist on the TV show, "A World of Difference: Embracing Neurodiversity." Danielle earned her bachelor's degrees at St. Andrews Presbyterian College (now University) (N.C.) and Guilford College. She earned her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Kentucky in 2014 and obtained her credentials as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.



Fred Henry Jr. is Assistant Director of External Affairs at the GuilfordWorks Workforce Development Board, overseeing external affairs and business services, which includes the monitoring of programming and business services. Fred is an alumnus of N.C. A&T State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Student Personnel/Human Resources Industry. He was designated a Certified Workforce Developer by the N.C. Workforce Development Leadership Initiative and is a 2023 Leadership Greensboro graduate.



Hugh Holston is Chief Executive Office of the Greensboro Housing Coalition, an organization that advocates for fair, safe, healthy and affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families in the community. Previously, Hugh has worked in leadership positions with Old North State Medical Society, Lincoln Financial, AT&T and Wells Fargo. He serves on the Greensboro City Council as a member at-large. A native of Fayetteville, N.C., Hugh is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill with a degree in Business Administration.



Robert Hutchins is CEO of ELLAVOZ Impact Capital. He is a retired tax partner of WithumSmith+Brown and his professional experience includes tax advisory and financial planning for ultra-high-net-worth individuals and their family-owned businesses, as well as impact investment advisor to single family offices for their direct investments in real estate. In his community, Robert is founder and President of Ocean Housing Alliance Inc., a non-profit 48-bed residential health care facility for very low-income individuals with serious mental illness. He is a trustee and Finance chair at Georgian Court University in Lakewood, N.J. and a lifetime member of the American Cancer Society.



Sterling Johnson is Director for the Partnership for Southern Equity's Just Opportunity Portfolio, where he oversees the administration of the economic justice programs. He serves as the organization's subject matter expert on inclusive economic development. Sterling holds a master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Planning and Economic Development from Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and his undergraduate degree in Sociology from Furman University. He is also a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium scholar and was recognized as a 2022 Emerging Leader by Bank of America through its Neighborhood Builders program.



Mark E. Kirstner has 38 years of experience in transportation and community planning. He is Director of Planning at the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART), where his focus is on managing the Piedmont Triad travel demand modeling program, the Regional Transportation Demand Management Initiatives program, and route planning and analysis. He was project manager for the 2010 Piedmont Triad Transit Plan and the regional sustainable community plan *Piedmont Together*, which won the NCAPA Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Special Theme Award for Equitable Development. Mark served on the NCPTA Board from 2014-18 and as co-chair of the Training and Professional Development Committee for eight years. Previously, he worked for 19 years for Guilford County in strategic planning, economic development, environmental protection, systems analysis and for three years managed the county's community transportation system.



Bob Powell serves as chair of the Housing Committee of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. He is a retired Professor of Architectural Engineering Program at N.C. A&T State University following many years of professional practice. This has included building design and construction administration as a practicing architect, building contractor, affordable housing developer and energy consultant. He is a long-term advocate and practitioner of sustainable development consulting with neighborhoods using open participatory design methods to identify effective use of green technologies. Bob received his undergraduate degree at Stanford University in Architectural Engineering and his master's degree in Architecture from M.I.T.



Joyce Rice is Business Services Consultant for GuilfordWorks and is the lead consultant for the Healthcare and Furniture Industry sectors. Joyce works to build synergy with local stakeholders and partners of GuilfordWorks, and her most innovative and collaborative work is the Annual Healthcare Workforce Summit at which strategic discussions are curated to illuminate paths for workforce solutions. She is the lead for GuilfordWorks' Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program. She was elected Chairman and President of the Piedmont Alliance for Triad Healthcare careers (PATH) and serves as an ambassador with the High Point Business Chamber. She has a bachelor's degree in Communications Studies from UNCG and an MBA from Strayer University.



Henry "Hank" W. B. Smith III is a retired interventional cardiologist who practiced at Cone Health for 37 years. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and Harvard Medical School. He completed internal medicine training, cardiology fellowship and faculty appointments at Emory University School of Medicine. He is a past Chairman of the Cone Health Board of Trustees and past President of the Moses Cone Hospital Medical Staff. He is a founding donor and steering committee member of the Black Investments in Greensboro (BIG) Equity Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. The mission of the BIG Equity Fund is to reduce the equity gap in health, education, and entrepreneurship in Greensboro.



Tyrome Smith has more than 25 years of consulting and leading executives and their teams by helping them understand human and organizational dynamics. He is the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Common Mission Project. Previously, he was a senior consultant to the Department of Defense where he developed an innovative education program for coaching and mentoring product development teams engaged in an internal incubator. He has served as faculty or entrepreneur-in-residence for institutions like Bowie State University (Md.), University of Maryland Innovation Extension Program, StreetCode Academy and Digital Undivided.



Phelps Sprinkle is CEO of Peacehaven, a Triad-based nonprofit that connects people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through inclusive living, learning, work, and play. At Peacehaven, he also served as Director of Business Development from 2014-16 and a board member prior to his appointment as CEO. Previously, Phelps was Vice President, Development & Donor Services, at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. He was Executive Vice President, Strategic Engagement, for Easter Seals UCP from 2012-14 after serving as President and CEO of Topics Education Group – a marketing and strategic communications firm he co-founded in Charlotte, N.C. – for 17 years. Phelps graduated from Davidson College in 1993.



Aimy Steele is Chief Executive Officer of the New North Carolina Project and its action arm, New North Carolina Project Action First. A visionary leader, she drives a dynamic agenda aimed at empowering communities across the state through enhanced voter engagement and access. Her unwavering belief is that true engagement stems from addressing the core needs of the people. Since the organization's inception in 2021, Aimy has orchestrated a statewide field program, ensuring that the voice of every North Carolinian is heard. In 2023, guided by extensive community feedback, the New North Carolina Project prioritized four foundational pillars: Economic Mobility, Housing Security, Public Safety and Civic Engagement.



Audrey Trussel is Vice President for Community Impact for the Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond (Va.). She works with the Community Impact team, the grant-making component of the foundation. In her role, she ensures the thoughtful execution and delivery of community investments to support organizations and programs that are addressing the social and equity challenges in the Richmond region. Audrey's previous positions include Vice President of Community Impact and Director of the Petersburg City & Schools Partnership at United Way. She earned her M.P.A. and Nonprofit Management Certificate from Virginia Commonwealth University and a B.S. in Psychology from Christopher Newport University.



Victor M. Vincent Jr. '11 is the founder and director of the nonprofit Victor M. Vincent Jr. The Reentry Expert Inc. Victor went from being an inmate in the Maryland Division of Corrections to a graduate of Guilford College with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, adult student government president for two terms, supervisor for the City of Greensboro and now a community healthcare worker for Triad Adult & Pediatric Medicine. One of his ultimate desires is to work to facilitate change in the thought processes of Americans who believe it's the job of the government to fix the problems in our communities, when it's actually our job.



Wendy Walker-Fox has served as Executive Director of the Piedmont Triad Regional Workforce Development Board since fall 2016. She manages the fiscal and administrative oversight for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act-funded programs. She leads programs as Workforce and Economic Development Director promoting innovative, responsive and strategic initiatives to advance economic growth and mobility across the region through developing strong community relationships, convening partners and coordinating resources to meet talent and development needs. Wendy holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and a master's in Human Resources Development and Exercise Science



Cynthia Wallace, a native of Springfield, GA, has lived in Charlotte, NC since 2006. In 2021, she co-founded the non-profit, New Rural Project, of which she is Executive Director. New Rural Project focuses on ensuring that the voices of rural young people and marginalized residents are heard. Her 25-year career in the financial services industry enhanced her expertise in risk management and regulations where she worked for three fortune 500 financial services companies, retiring from Synchrony in 2021. Cynthia was the 2020 Democratic Nominee for N.C.'s 9th Congressional District. Prior to running for office, she was Chair of the District's Democratic Party, where she led an 8-county strategy. Cynthia earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Spelman College and her M.S. in Statistics from the University of North Florida.



Since 1992, **Hope Williams** has served as president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, representing the state's 36 private, nonprofit colleges and universities. She works closely with state and federal governments and with the state's other education sectors to address education public policy and funding issues. In addition, she oversees fundraising and the development of collaborative programs. Hope received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, MPA from N.C. State University and Ph.D. from UNC Chapel Hill. She is on the Governor's Education Cabinet, is immediate past chair of Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC) and chairs the Coalition for College Cost Savings. She serves on the boards of the National Student Clearinghouse, College Foundation and myFutureNC.



Omar Woodard is executive director at HRS Management, a single-family office and private investment platform. Previously, he was a vice president at Results for America, advising federal, state and local government leaders on using data and evidence in policy making. Omar spent a decade as an impact investor as executive director of GreenLight Fund Philadelphia and principal at Venture Philanthropy Partners. Earlier, he specialized in government affairs as a federal lobbyist, policy director to the Pennsylvania Senate minority whip and policy director for a Philadelphia mayoral campaign. He began his career as an aide to a U.S. congressman and appropriator. Omar received a M.P.A. and a B.A. in International Affairs, both from George Washington University, where he was a Presidential Fellow.

Moderators



Martin Acevedo joined the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro in January 2022 as its Vice President of Marketing and Communications. He has three decades of experience in resource development, communications, marketing and strategic planning. He has worked for and consulted with nonprofits in grassroots fundraising and institutional philanthropy, public and private education, low-income and affordable housing, Latino leadership development and immigrant civil rights, educational radio and online learning, and arts and culture. In 2017, Martin was named the Advocate of the Year by the San Antonio LGBT Chamber of Commerce. In 2021, he completed the Council on Foundation's Career Pathway Program. He served seven years in three distinct roles for San Antonio's (Texas) Community Foundation. He is a graduate of Yale College (B.A., English) and the University of Texas at Austin (M.A., Latin American Studies).



Steve Bumbaugh will moderate the Q&A following Raj Chetty's keynote talk. Steve leads College Board's partnerships and outreach to underrepresented communities. Through the development of digital access tools as well as intensive listening and engagement with stakeholders at all levels, he helps shape College Board programs to ensure they propel students from all backgrounds into opportunity. He is especially focused on expanding access and participation in high quality coursework among students of color and low-income students, building on his long record of success as an educator, community leader and parent. Steve started his career running a small school in Southeast Washington, D.C., as profiled in the documentary "Southeast 67." He earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his MBA from Stanford University.



Gizelle Clemens has for nearly two decades embodied empathetic leadership, strategic philanthropy and disruptive innovation, driving systemic change. As director at National Medical Fellowships, she champions diverse health care workforces to achieve health equity. Leading She Sparks Genius, she advocates for inclusivity across industries with innovative approaches. Her philanthropic work centers on deliberately marginalized voices, addressing support gaps globally. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Rutgers University. Her journey epitomizes transformative leadership, dedicated to fostering a just and inclusive society.



James Cox is Chief Executive Officer of the Greensboro Housing Authority. He joined GHA in 2011 as the Vice President of Real Estate Development and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer in 2014 and CEO in 2020. Prior to joining GHA, James was a Partner and Senior Development Manager with two Mid-Atlantic Real Estate Development firms, managing a wide range of development projects including affordable housing tax credit initiatives. He earned a bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering from N.C. A&T State University, a master's degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech and an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from Harvard Kennedy School. He is a licensed real estate broker and former adjunct professor in the N.C. A&T State College of Engineering.



Mark Justad is the Director of the Center for Principled Problem Solving and Excellence in Teaching (CPPSET) at Guilford College and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies and Ethics. Launched in 2008, CPPSET advances Principled Problem Solving and Ethical Leadership initiatives in values-based education through traditional coursework, targeted research and hands-on experiential problem-based teaching and learning. Mark also directs the PPS Scholars Program and serves on the College's Ethical Leadership Council. He teaches numerous courses in Religious Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Mark earned a M.Div. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Religion from Vanderbilt University.



Milagros Russell is the CEO and co-founder of RIOTT For Change, an organizational culture consulting and learning firm. She is also a wife and mother of two daughters, a life coach, motivational speaker, encourager and "overcomer." She enjoys family time, world travel, reading, people watching and hearing every person's unique story. The pandemic caused her to re-evaluate her life's decisions, and in turn, she left her 26-year corporate career to pursue her dream. Over the last year, she has focused on building her global business and renewing her commitment to her holistic health and peace journey. She has a B.A. in Media Studies from UNCG and an M.A. in Professional Counseling from Liberty University.



Stephen Sills is a distinguished researcher in housing policy, economic development and public health. A former professor of Sociology and founding director of the UNCG Center for Housing and Community Studies, he serves as the chief impact officer of the United Way of Forsyth County and CEO of Innovative Research Insights. Stephen uses a mixed-method approach in his research, incorporating statistical and geospatial data with rich ethnographic information often engaging communities in the research process. His accolades include being a Policy Scholar with the E Pluribus Unum Fund and a research fellow with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Program.



Dee Stokes is an entrepreneurial minister, educator, consultant, author and podcaster. With 30 years of experience in education, Dee has worked at every level, from: Pre-K-8th grade principal, high school Bible teacher, seminary director and community college director, with most of her experience in 4-year public and private universities as basketball coach, professor and dissertation committee member. Currently, she is director of the Small Business Center at Davidson-Davie Community College. Her degrees are in Sociology (B.A.), Public Administration (M.P.A.), Biblical and Theological Foundations (M.B.T.F.), and Educational Leadership (Ed.S., Ed.D.). Her research interests include cultural intelligence, emotional intelligence, burnout, leadership, unconscious bias and spousal responsibility.



Rehshetta Wells '18 is a lecturer in the Wiser Justice Program and Guilford College's Justice and Policy Studies Department who advocates for incarcerated students' academic growth. Rehshetta guides students toward transformative education, and her efforts led 10 incarcerated students to be the first to present at the Guilford Undergraduate Symposium. Passionate about social justice, her work embodies inclusivity and empowerment. With a bachelor's degree in Community & Justice Studies from Guilford College and a master's degree in Adult Education from N.C. A&T State University, she is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Studies at UNCG.

2024 GUILFORD DIALOGUES SPONSORS

PRESENTING DIALOGUES SPONSOR



KEYNOTE RECEPTION SPONSOR

GUILFORD
COLLEGE

CENTER *for* PRINCIPLED
PROBLEM SOLVING *and*
EXCELLENCE *in* TEACHING

BRONZE DIALOGUES SPONSORS



SESSION SPONSORS



COMMUNITY DIALOGUES SPONSORS



Advisory Committee

LaToya C. Crawford, Managing Consultant, New Dream Consulting LLC

Garrett Dinkins, Economic Development Coordinator, Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Ken Gilmore, Professor of Political Science, Chair, Political Science, Chair, International Studies, Guilford College

Simone Martin-Howard, Ph.D., MPA, Associate Professor, Director, MPA Program - Public Policy and Administration,
Department of Public Management, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

Ann Morris

Kate Clancy Phillips, MBA, Director, Accelerate Greensboro, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce

Melissa S. Smith, Director of Workforce Development Solutions, Greensboro Chamber of Commerce

Marcus Thomas, MPA, CAP, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility-Philanthropy, Truiliant Federal Credit Union

Demetrius Ponder, Client Service Advisor, Pinnacle Financial Partners

Planning Committee

Ty Buckner, Vice President, Communications & Marketing

Rick Lancaster '88, Director of Development & Strategic Engagement

Lisa Lee, Director of Special Projects

LaToya Marsh, Director of the Bryan Series

Maddi Page '24, Planning and Research Assistant

Aziz Peregrino-Brimah, Digital Content Manager

Ashley Hicks Raper, Special Assistant to the President

D. Summers, Jr. '00, Director of Special Events and Hospitality

Ayesha M. Coleman Swinton, Director of the Office of Transformation and Inclusion

GUILFORD COLLEGE

GUILFORD DIALOGUES

For the latest updates, follow-up information and speaker bios, check
the Dialogues website at www.guilford.edu/GuilfordDialogues

