



cultivate

inspire county growth

NCACC 118TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 21-23, 2025

PITT COUNTY



**Thank you to the commissioners,
staff, and volunteers of Pitt County
for hosting this year's NCACC
Annual Conference!**



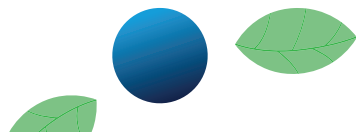
welcome to the NCACC 118th annual conference

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Annual Conference is the Association's premier gathering for county commissioners, managers, clerks, and staff to connect, learn, and grow.

This year's theme, *Cultivate: Inspire County Growth*, invites you to explore how you can help inspire the future of your county — through new ideas, stronger partnerships, and forward-thinking development. While rooted in agricultural imagery, *Cultivate* also captures how growth takes shape in many ways across North Carolina's 100 counties, from infrastructure and public health to economic innovation and community collaboration. The conference branding blends abstract flora and fauna with a modern edge, reflecting North Carolina's natural beauty while symbolizing the ongoing progress and growth across the state.

Pitt County, this year's host, exemplifies that spirit of growth with successful initiatives in parks and recreation, agritourism, healthcare, and more. With its cultural attractions, scenic spaces, and thriving local projects, Pitt County offers plenty to discover.

Thank you for joining us in Pitt County. We hope this conference helps you plant new ideas, nurture valuable connections, and return home ready to cultivate meaningful change in your county.



cultivate and collect



At this year's Annual Conference, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is introducing an interactive element where attendees will have the chance to win a limited-edition NCACC prize. By attending special events during the conference, participants can collect stickers to enter their name into a raffle.

how does it work?

On the back of your name badge, you'll find empty circles. You must collect **six (6) stickers** in order to earn **one (1) entry** into the raffle. There are five different sticker designs, as shown on this page, but you don't need to collect each unique design — duplicates count too.

You can enter into the raffle more than once — to earn a second entry, collect an additional six (6) stickers to layer on your name badge or stick on these pages.

Ways to collect a sticker include:

- ❑ **Check in at conference registration** – there will be a sticker in each tote bag.
- ❑ **Attend a session that highlights the Heroic Hands initiative** – there will be a basket of stickers at the front of the room. Sessions that are eligible are marked on the agenda with the Heroic Hands logo.
- ❑ **Connect with a sponsor or attend a sponsor session (maximum of 3 stickers)** – sponsor representatives may give stickers to attendees, and there will be a basket of stickers at the front of the room during sponsor sessions. Sessions that are eligible are marked on the agenda with the conference logo.
- ❑ **Go on an off-site tour** – off-site tour staff will have a basket of stickers. Sessions that are eligible are marked on the agenda with the conference logo.



- ❑ **Take a photo at or of your favorite NC Cooperative Extension exhibit booth at the First Night Celebration** – visit the conference registration desk on Friday or Saturday to show us your photo and receive a sticker.
- ❑ **Share your conference experience on social media with #NCACC118 (maximum of 2 stickers)** – visit the conference registration desk on Friday or Saturday to show us your social media post and receive a sticker.
- ❑ **Watch the 100 Strong Productions documentary, *Rising Above Helene: Western North Carolina’s Journey to Recovery*** – there will be a basket of stickers by the entryway.
- ❑ **Donate to “Stuff the Bus”** – clerks at the “Stuff the Bus” table may give stickers to attendees who donate.
- ❑ **Celebrate local government with Civic** – visit their sponsor booth and participate in their activity to receive a sticker.



After you have collected **six (6) stickers**, please visit the conference registration desk to enter your name into the raffle.

Three (3) winners will be drawn on Monday, August 25, notified, and highlighted in the thank-you follow-up email. Winners will also be contacted through email.



another chance to win!

In addition to showing your six (6) collected stickers at the registration desk, you can earn another raffle entry by completing the feedback form. No need to show us proof — your name and email on the form will confirm your entry. One (1) winner will be selected from these responses on Friday, September 5.

Scan the QR code on the back of this booklet or look for QR codes around the convention center to access the feedback form.

conference agenda

thursday, august 21

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours

9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Session Blocks 1 and 2

Ethics, Conflicts of Interest, and Open Government, *Gallery 1 & 2*



Understanding Real Property Reappraisals: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, *Gallery 4 & 5*

**This session, sponsored by Vincent Valuations, is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*

**There is a break scheduled from 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.*

11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Opening Ceremony and Networking Lunch,
Exhibit Hall C, D, E

Starting at 1:30 p.m.



1:30 – 4:00 p.m.


Session Block 3

Census Counts and Population Estimates: What You Can Do to Ensure You Are Getting an Accurate Picture of Your County's Population (Part 1 and Part 2), *Gallery 4 & 5*

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Strategic Planning Workshop I: Discovering NCACC's Secret Sauce, *Emerald Room East*



1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  **Strengthening the Workforce: Practical Solutions to Removing Barriers and Supporting Employee Success, Gallery 1 & 2**

**This session is an eligible Cultivate and Collect Heroic Hands Initiative activity.*

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. **Session Block 4**

Leveraging Community Partnerships to Reduce Arrests: Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) in North Carolina, *Gallery 1 & 2*

Proactive Risk Management: Knowing Your Risk Exposure, *Emerald Room West*

Strategic Planning Workshop II: Shaping NCACC's Future Focus, *Emerald Room East*

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. NC Association of Black County Officials (NCABCO) Business Meeting, *Emerald Room East*

5:15 – 6:00 p.m. First Night Networking Reception, hosted by NC Cooperative Extension, *Exhibit Hall A*

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  **First Night Celebration, hosted by NC Cooperative Extension, Exhibit Hall C, D, E**



friday, august 22

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Keynote Session: Making the Case for Equitable Access to Health — Dr. Jerome Adams, Presidential Fellow, Executive Director of the Center for Community Health Enhancement and Learning (HEAL), and Distinguished Professor of Practice, Purdue University, *Exhibit Hall C, D, E*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Session Block 5

Advocacy in Action, *Emerald Room West*

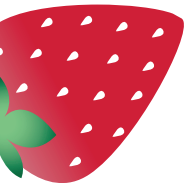


From Statute to Solution: Sheriffs' Legal Roles and the NC RISE Approach, *Emerald Room East*
**This session is an eligible Cultivate and Collect Heroic Hands Initiative activity.*

Lifting Off Together: Strengthening County-Airport Partnerships, *Gallery 4 & 5*



Strategic Fire Service Planning: Johnston County's Path to the Future, *Gallery 1 & 2*
**This session is an eligible Cultivate and Collect Heroic Hands Initiative activity.*





10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

NC Association of County Clerks Meeting,
Hilton Ballroom D

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Sessions

Networking Lunch, *Exhibit Hall C, D, E*

NC Association of Black County Officials
(NCABCO) Scholarship Banquet, *Hilton Ballroom F*

**Tickets must be purchased separately for this lunch.*

NC Association of County Clerks Luncheon,
Hilton Ballroom D

NC City and County Management Association
Luncheon and Meeting, *Exhibit Hall B*

Starting at 1:00 p.m.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Session Block 6

Affordable Housing Strategy: Our State, Our
Homes, *Gallery 1 & 2*

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.


Cybersecurity Essentials: Protecting Counties in
the Digital Age, *Emerald Room West*

1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Reentry Simulation, *Exhibit Hall A*

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tapping into Funding: Resources for Water and
Wastewater Infrastructure, *Gallery 4 & 5*



1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

You Make Me Want to Shout: Managing Incivility in Local Government, *Emerald Room East*

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Session Block 7

AI in North Carolina: Practical Tools and Policy Considerations for Local Leaders, *Emerald Room West*

From Challenges to Solutions: Funding Public Schools Today, *Gallery 1 & 2*



Tailored Plans Launch: What's Next for Integrated Care, *Gallery 4 & 5*

**This session, sponsored by NCAPCHP, is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*



3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Session Block 8

Updates from the Department of Health and Human Services, *Emerald Room East*



How New Schools Can Inspire Your County's Growth, *Gallery 1 & 2*

**This session, sponsored by the NC Education Lottery, is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.



Off-Site Tours

The African American Cultural Trail

**Registration is required. See page 17 for more information.
This tour is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*



The Community Gardens at Alice F. Keene Park

**Registration is required. See page 17 for more information.
This tour is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*

saturday, august 23

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast, *Exhibit Hall C, D, E*

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Keynote Session: Anatomy of a Purple State — Dr. Christopher Cooper, Madison Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs and Director of the Haire Institute for Public Policy, Western Carolina University, *Exhibit Hall C, D, E*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Session Block 9

Ensuring Confidence in Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections in North Carolina, *Gallery 4 & 5*

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.



Session Block 9 (continued)

Lessons Learned on the Front Lines of Disaster Response, *Gallery 1 & 2*

**This session is an eligible Cultivate and Collect Heroic Hands Initiative activity.*

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch with YouthVoice,
Exhibit Hall C, D, E

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.



100 Strong Productions Documentary Screening,
Rising Above Helene: Western North Carolina's Journey to Recovery, Exhibit Hall C, D, E

**This documentary screening is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

NCACC Annual Business Session, *Exhibit Hall A*

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

President's Banquet, *Exhibit Hall C, D, E*

**Tickets must be purchased separately for this event. Inquire about availability at the registration desk.*

8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

New President's Reception, *Emerald Rooms*



conference meals

Full conference registration includes access to the following meal functions at the Greenville Convention Center:

On Thursday, lunch is provided. Dinner is provided as part of the First Night Celebration, hosted by the NC Cooperative Extension.

On Friday, lunch is provided. *Tickets must be purchased separately for the NCABCO Scholarship Banquet held during lunch on Friday.*

On Saturday, breakfast and lunch are provided. Tickets to attend the President's Reception and Banquet on Saturday evening must be purchased separately.

Beverages will be available for the duration of conference, and snacks will be provided during breaks.

Wi-Fi Network: **GCC Guest** or **GCC Guest Wireless** Code: **Wireless**

Thank you to Telemetry for sponsoring the conference Wi-Fi!

TELEMYND

Conference website: **ncacc.org/ncacc118**

stuff the bus

The North Carolina Association of County Clerks is proud to continue its annual tradition of collecting school supplies to support children in need across North Carolina. While you're here at the conference, please consider dropping off new school supplies at the "Stuff the Bus" table. Monetary donations are also accepted.

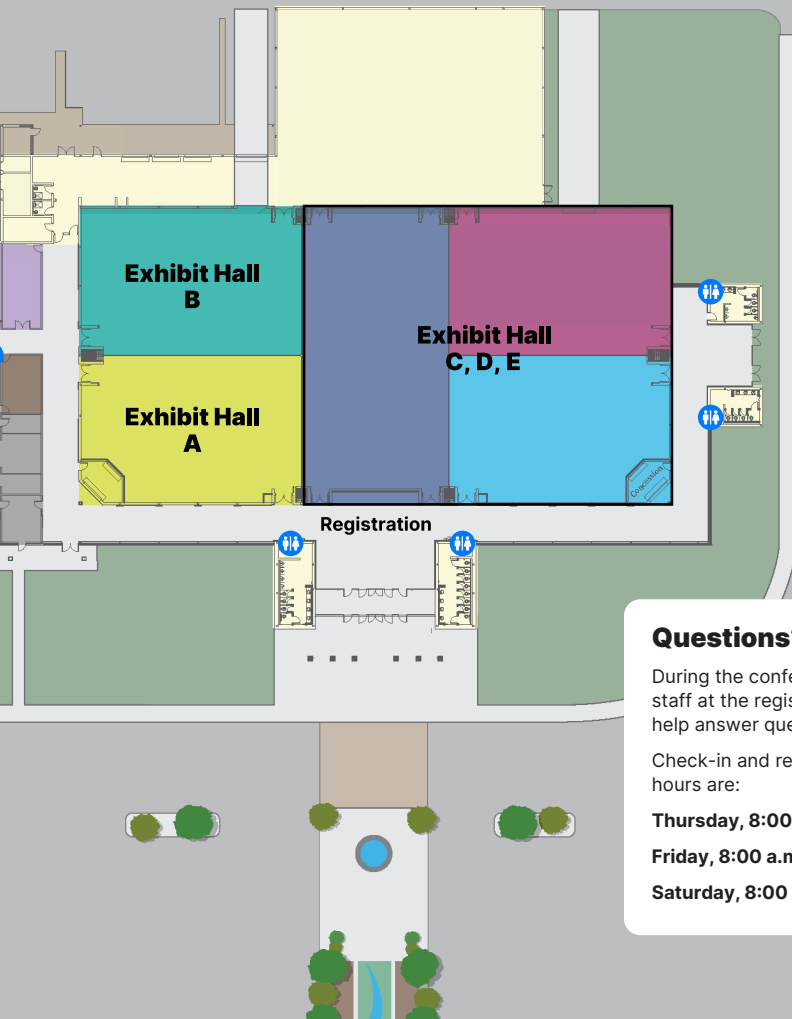
Scan the QR code or visit **ncacc.org/stuff-the-bus-2025** to view the Amazon wishlist.

Donating to Stuff the Bus is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity.

site map

Greenville Convention Center





Questions?


During the conference, NCACC staff at the registration desk can help answer questions.

Check-in and registration desk hours are:

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



tours and workshops

Reentry Simulation Workshop


Exhibit Hall A • Friday, August 22 • 1:00 – 3:15 p.m.

The Reentry Simulation simulates the struggles and challenges faced by individuals who are transitioning from incarceration back into society. It is designed to mimic one month in the life of an individual who has just been released from prison and is now on probation, post release, or parole.

Over the course of about two hours, participants experience the first month of post-release life. Each participant assumes the identity of a formerly incarcerated person and receives a packet of materials, including a “Name History” and “Life Card.”


Expect to gain an understanding of obstacles faced by individuals attempting to acquire resources from various agencies upon their release from incarceration.

*Separate registration is **not required** for this workshop.*



If you were unable to sign up for an off-site tour prior to the conference, inquire about availability at the check-in and registration desk.

Going on an off-site tour is an eligible Cultivate and Collect activity, but space is limited.





The African American Cultural Trail

Off-Site Tour • Friday, August 22 • 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Greenville's African American heritage will be on display on the African American Cultural Trail, including six stops that showcase the community's rich history. Learn about trailblazing leaders and discover landmarks that reflect the resilience and cultural vibrancy of the African American experience in Greenville and demonstrate the vital role of African Americans in the city's growth and transformation.

Boarding for this off-site tour begins at 3:20 p.m. at the front entrance of the convention center.

Registration is required. *Inquire about availability at the registration desk.*

The Community Gardens at Alice F. Keene Park

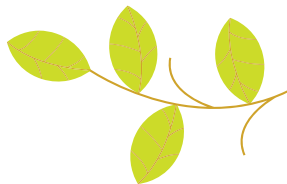
Off-Site Tour • Friday, August 22 • 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

The Making Pitt Fit Community Garden's goal is to build a community of gardeners who share resources to make gardening a fun, inexpensive, and successful experience that connects the local community. Please join us for a tour of the garden, where we will highlight some of our partnerships and programs, and how we manage the garden and volunteer participation.

We'll also have a guided tour of the Alice F. Keene Park and Cultural Arts & Recreation Community Center as managed by the Pitt County Cultural Arts & Recreation Department. The vibrant green spaces and newly constructed Community Centers designed for fun, fitness, and community connections will surely showcase the power of partnership and strategic planning.

Boarding for this off-site tour begins at 3:20 p.m. at the front entrance of the convention center.

Registration is required. *Inquire about availability at the registration desk.*



keynote speakers

Dr. Jerome Adams

Presidential Fellow, Executive Director of the Center for Community Health Enhancement and Learning (HEAL), and Distinguished Professor of Practice, Purdue University

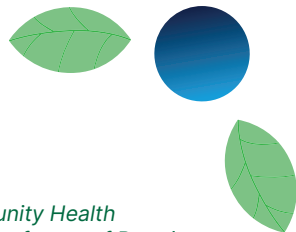
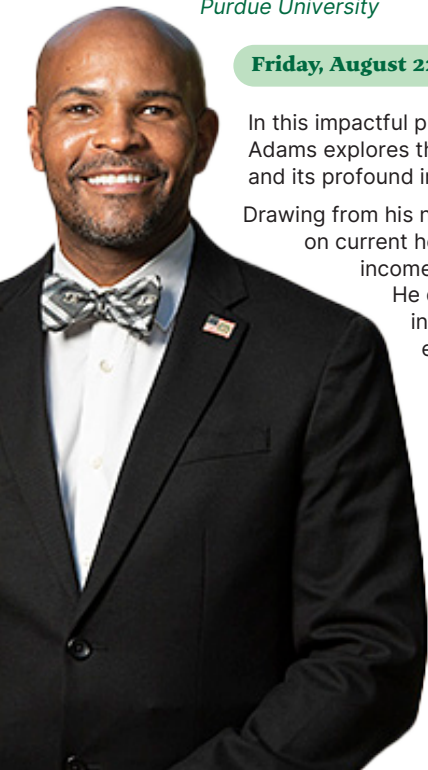
Friday, August 22 • 9:00 a.m.

In this impactful presentation, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams explores the urgent need for equitable access to health care and its profound influence on public health and economic stability.

Drawing from his national leadership experience, Dr. Adams sheds light on current health disparities — examining how factors like race, income, and geography contribute to unequal outcomes.

He discusses the far-reaching effects of these inequities, from increased chronic illness to mounting economic costs borne by communities and systems.

Attendees gain insight into practical, policy-level solutions to advance health equity, including infrastructure improvements, community partnerships, and targeted interventions. Dr. Adams closes with a powerful call to action, urging collaboration across sectors to drive meaningful, lasting change. This session offers a compelling roadmap for county leaders committed to building healthier, more resilient communities.



Dr. Christopher Cooper

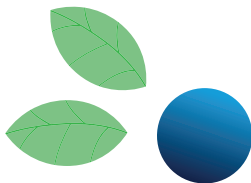
Madison Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs and Director of the Haire Institute for Public Policy, Western Carolina University

Saturday, August 23 • 9:00 a.m.

North Carolina stands at a unique and consequential intersection in American politics — part Southern stronghold, part national bellwether. Drawing from and offering updates to his book, *Anatomy of a Purple State: A North Carolina Politics Primer*, this keynote presentation offers an incisive, nonpartisan exploration of the people, policies, and political forces shaping one of the nation's most closely watched swing states.

Dr. Cooper weaves history, data, and narrative to unpack why North Carolina defies easy categorization — where deep traditions meet rapid demographic change, where residents of growing urban areas often hold distinct views from the state's large rural populations, and where policy debates echo far beyond state lines.

Interested in learning more about our keynote speakers?
Read their full bios on our conference website at
ncacc.org/ncacc118.



Thank you, sponsors!

We appreciate your support of the
NCACC 118th Annual Conference in Pitt County!

To see a full list of our sponsors, visit conference.ncacc.org/sponsors.

*Connecting with a sponsor or attending a sponsor session
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★ Session 8:

How New Schools Can Inspire Your County's Growth

Friday, August 22
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Panelists:

★ Commissioner Tracey Johnson,
Washington County

★ Chairman Randal Mathews,
Hyde County

★ Chairman Vernon J. Bryant,
Halifax County



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Scan the QR code or visit ncacc.org/ncacc118 to view the NCACC 118th Annual Conference website.

There you can read more about our keynote speakers, find descriptions of each session, view session speaker profiles, and fill out our event feedback survey.



Use the official conference hashtag **#NCACC118** in your posts and tag us, so we can see it and share it!



@ncacc1908



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