



PROPELLING FORWARD

Asheville Area Networking Luncheon

April 30 • Noon – 1:30 pm • Hilton Biltmore Park

Presenting Sponsor

**the
partnership**

Henderson County, NC
Economic Development

11:30 am – Noon

Registration / Networking

Noon – 12:30 pm

Luncheon

12:30 – 12:35 pm

Welcome / Introductions

CLARK DUNCAN

Executive Director

Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County

NCEDA Board of Directors

12:35 – 12:45 pm

Legislative Update

BRITTANY BRADY

President

Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development

NCEDA Board of Directors / Legislative Committee Chair

12:45 – 1:25 pm

Panel Discussion

JOHN LOYACK

Vice President, Economic Development

North Carolina Community College System

DR. JOHN GOSSETT

President – A-B Tech Community College

DR. LAURA LEATHERWOOD

President – Blue Ridge Community College

DR. SHELLEY WHITE

President – Haywood Community College

1:25 – 1:30 pm

Closing Remarks

CLARK DUNCAN

Panel Members



the Thunderbird School of Global Management and a BA from Gettysburg College.

John Loyack is the Vice President of Economic Development for the NC Community College System where he leads the operation of ApprenticeshipNC, BioNetwork, Customized Training, and the Small Business Center Network. His team provides education, training, and support services for new, expanding, and existing business and industry in all 100 counties through the network of 58 community colleges. Before joining NCCCS, John worked for the EDPNC and Commerce. John holds an MBA from



a BS in Marketing from the University of Tennessee.

Dr. John Gossett has served since July 2020 as the seventh president of A-B Tech Community College. Prior to this role, he was president of McDowell Technical Community College in Marion. John serves on the Economic Development Coalition Board for Asheville and Buncombe County, the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, the Land of Sky P20 Council, and the Community Colleges of Appalachia Board. John holds an Ed.D from NC State University, an MBA from Appalachian State University, and



Dr. Laura Leatherwood has served since 2017 as the fourth president of Blue Ridge Community College. Prior to this role, she served for 17 years in various roles at Haywood Community College. Laura invests much of her time serving on behalf of the Henderson County Partnership, Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, WNC Communities Board of Directors, and many other nonprofit agencies. Laura holds a Ph.D, an MS, and a Bachelor's Degree, all from Western Carolina University.



Dr. Shelley White has served since 2020 as the seventh president of Haywood Community College. During her three years there, the College launched a new Strategic Planning and completed the design and construction of a new Health Sciences Education building. Prior to joining HCC, Shelley served as Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at A-B Tech. Shelley holds an Ed.D from Western Carolina University and is a graduate of Isothermal Community College.