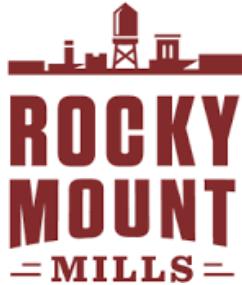




## 2026 North Carolina Economic Development Career Trek Agenda

February 6, 2026

### THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!



NP STRATEGY



NC Electric Cooperatives

**MEETING LOCATION:** **Rocky Mount Mills**  
1151 Falls Road – Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**INDUSTRY TOUR:** **Cheesecake Factory Manufacturing Facility**  
6792 Corporation Parkway – Battleboro, NC 27809

9:30 – 10:15 am

#### Arrival & Networking

10:15 – 10:30 am

#### Welcome & Career Trek Overview

**TREY CASH, Master of Ceremonies**

Chief Operating Officer – NC Global TransPark Economic Development Region  
*NCEDA Board of Directors*

#### ANDRE LENNON

Group Manager – ESP Associates

*NCEDA and NCEDA Foundation Board of Directors*

10:30 – 11:15 am

#### Economic Development Unpacked: The Work, The Impact, and The Fun

**ANNA WALKER, moderator**

Economic Development Manager – North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives  
*NCEDA Emerging Executives Chair*

#### CHRIS CHUNG

Chief Executive Officer – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

#### MARY ELIZABETH WILSON

Chief of Staff and General Counsel – North Carolina Department of Commerce

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11:15 am – Noon

## Inside the Pipeline: Interns Shaping Tomorrow's Communities

**DANIELLE BUCKINS, moderator**

Director of Economic Development, North Carolina – Duke Energy

### CAMERON BROWN

Budget Data Coordinator – City of Durham

### WEATHERLY REEVES

Talent and Marketing Manager – Surry County Economic Development Partnership

### OLIVIA WEIDIE

Specialist – NP Strategy

Noon – 12:30 pm

## Lunch / Networking

12:30 – 12:45 pm

## Transferable Skills: From the Football Field to the Board Room

**EJ WILSON**

Project Manager – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

Former College and NFL Player

12:45 – 1 pm

## Economic Development Career Path Breakout Session Overview

*Breakout Session leaders will provide a brief overview of their professions to help students explore various career paths and choose which sessions to attend.*

1 – 3 pm

## Economic Development Career Path Breakout Sessions

*There will be four breakout sessions, and students will select four of seven available options to explore careers that interest them most.*

*Session Switch: 1 – 1:05 pm*

*Session One: 1:05 – 1:25 pm*

*Session Switch: 1:25 – 1:35 pm*

*Session Two: 1:35 – 1:55 pm*

*Session Switch: 1:55 – 2:05 pm*

*Session Three: 2:05 – 2:25 pm*

*Session Switch: 2:25 – 2:35 pm*

*Session Four: 2:35 – 2:55 pm*

*Reconvene: 2:55 – 3 pm*

### 1. Architecture, Engineering, & Construction

*Session Leaders:*

- André Lennon – ESP Associates
- Eric Musico – ARCO Design/Build
- Caroline Taney – Terracon Consultants

### 2. Business Development & Sales

*Session Leaders:*

- Albert Alwang – Wake County Economic Development
- Baylee Fox – Greenville ENC Alliance
- EJ Wilson – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

# 2026 North Carolina Economic Development Career Trek Agenda

## 3. Consulting & Government Affairs

*Session Leaders:*

- Stephanie Blair – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina
- Steven Pearce – McGuireWoods Consulting

## 4. Local Economic Development & Workforce Development

*Session Leaders:*

- Charla Duncan – Granville County Economic Development
- David Lambert – North Carolina Department of Commerce
- Weatherly Reeves – Surry County Economic Development Partnership

## 5. Research, Marketing, & Communications

*Session Leaders:*

- Crystal Morphis – Creative Economic Development Consulting
- Jack Nelms – Wake County Economic Development

## 6. State Government

*Session Leaders:*

- Hazel Edmond – North Carolina Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division
- Katy Parker – Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina
- Nicole Williams – North Carolina Department of Commerce

## 7. Utility Partners

*Session Leaders:*

- Adrienne Elder – Duke Energy
- Mary Lesa Pegg – Norfolk Southern
- Anna Walker – North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives

3 – 3:15 pm

## Closing Remarks / Site Tour Instructions

### AANYA LILLY

Planning Technician – Town of Chapel Hill

Graduate Student – UNC Charlotte

*NCEDA Student Member and Mentorship Program Participant*

### TREY CASH

3:15 – 3:30 pm

## Travel to Site Tour

3:30 – 4:30 pm

## Site Tour: Cheesecake Factory Manufacturing Facility

4:30 pm

## Adjourn / Departure