



2026 North Carolina Economic Development Career Trek Agenda

February 6, 2026

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!



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

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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