



Eastern North Carolina Regional Networking Luncheon

Partnering with ECU to Strengthen the Regional Economy

April 16 • Greenville

AGENDA

Noon – 12:30 pm	Registration & Networking
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 – 1:10 pm	Welcome & Introductions Scott Hamilton President and CEO Golden LEAF Foundation <i>NCEDA Past President</i>
	David Horn Vice President of Operations and Strategic Partnerships Invest Greenville
	Merrill Flood Director of Regional Economic Development Planner in Residence, Department of Earth, Environment, and Planning East Carolina University
1:10 – 1:45 pm	Partnering with ECU to Strengthen the Regional Economy Josh Lewis, CEcD , <i>moderator</i> President and CEO Invest Greenville
	Stephanie George, Ph.D. Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Technology East Carolina University
	Sharon Paynter, Ph.D. Senior Vice Provost for Research and Innovation East Carolina University
1:45 – 1:55 pm	Q&A
1:55 – 2:00 pm	Closing Remarks Scott Hamilton

OUR SPEAKERS



Stephanie George, Ph.D. is the interim dean of the College of Engineering and Technology at East Carolina University. A tenured engineering faculty member, her work focuses on cardiovascular health and student-centered, workforce-aligned education. She has secured over \$2.8 million in research funding and previously served with the National Science Foundation.



Josh Lewis, CECD is the president and CEO of Invest Greenville. He leads efforts to attract new industry, strengthen partnerships, and support economic growth in Greenville-Pitt County. With 20 years of experience, he has supported more than 6,000 jobs and more than \$2 billion in capital investment and is active in industry leadership.



Sharon Paynter, Ph.D. is the senior vice provost for research and innovation and chief research officer at East Carolina University. A tenured political science faculty member, she has led major research initiatives and helped guide ECU to R1 status. Her work emphasizes public service, collaboration, and community impact.

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