

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. NC Teaching Fellows Commission AppointmentsAlex Mitchell

Situation: The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has seven appointments to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission for two-year terms. There are six individuals for reappointment and one for a new appointment.

Background: North Carolina G.S. 116-209.61 established the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission. The 14-member commission is charged with determining the program and forgivable loan recipient selection criteria and selection procedures, and with selecting the recipients to receive forgivable loans under the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

The Board of Governors has seven appointments to the commission:

1. Two deans of approved schools of education at postsecondary constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina System;
2. The president of a North Carolina community college;
3. A teacher who graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in the state within three years of appointment to serve on the commission;
4. A principal who graduated from an approved educator preparation program located in the state;
5. A local board of education member; and
6. A member to represent business and industry in North Carolina.

Assessment: The following nominees are recommended for reappointment.

UNC System dean.....Malcolm Butler
NC community college president.....Amanda Lee
NC beginning teacher.....Taleek Harlee
NC principal.....Matthew Price
NC local board of education member.....Debora Powell
NC business and industry representative.....Patrick Brennan

The following nominee is recommended for appointment:

UNC System dean.....André Green

Action: This item requires a vote by the committee and a vote by the full Board of Governors.

UNC System dean: Malcolm Butler (reappointment)

Dr. Malcolm Butler is professor and dean of the Cato College of Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Butler earned a Bachelor of Science in physics from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He also completed a Master of Education and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction (science education) at the University of Florida. Butler has taught mathematics, science, and life from elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as college students. He has been affiliated with several institutions of higher education, including the College of William and Mary, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, the University of Georgia, the University of South Florida, and the University of Central Florida. Butler has secured over \$7 million in funding to support his research and scholarly initiatives. He has served in leadership capacities in his profession, include board member of NARST (a global organization for improving science education through research) and Nap Ford Community School Inc. (Orlando, Florida); chair of the board for the Council of Scientific Society Presidents; and president of the Association for Science Teacher Education.

NC community college president: Amanda “Mandi” Lee (reappointment)

Dr. Mandi Lee currently serves as the president of Bladen Community College in Dublin, North Carolina. Immediately prior to that, she served as interim chief of staff and vice president for academic affairs at Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky. Lee also served as president of Cape Fear Community College from 2015 to 2017. She has Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Baylor University and a Ph.D. from Regent University.

Beginning teacher: Taleek Harlee (reappointment)

Taleek Harlee is a 2022 and 2025 graduate of NC State University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education with a concentration in horticultural science, a master’s degree in agriculture education, and is a former North Carolina Teaching Fellow. Harlee is a horticulture teacher at his alma mater of Purnell Swett High School in Robeson County. During his undergraduate time at NC State, he served as a College of Agriculture and Life Science senator, was vice chair of the student government committee on government relations and oversight, served as a diversity and education ambassador, and served on several university hiring committees. Harlee also worked as a student coordinator for Multicultural Student Affairs and served as a North Carolina Cooperative Extension intern.

Principal: Matthew Price (reappointment)

Matthew Price is a graduate of East Carolina University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in secondary science education followed by his Master of School Administration. He has over 15 years of education experience. Price proudly serves as principal of Garner Magnet High School in Wake County Public Schools.

Local board of education member: Debora Powell (reappointment)

The Rev. Dr. Debora Powell attended East Carolina University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in special education with a minor in psychology. While attending ECU, she was initiated into the Eta Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and gained a legacy of sisterhood and service that continues today. She earned her Master of Education degree from Grand Canyon University and Doctor of Philosophy in Christian counseling through the Accredited Institute of Higher Learning through Wilson Chapel Church. A retired educator, Powell taught in Randolph, Robeson, Wilson, Wake, and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. She was first elected to the Wilson County Board of Education in 2014 and subsequently reelected in 2018 and 2022. Powell serves on the boards for the St. John Community Development Corp. Inc., and for Dee’s House, both located in Wilson, North Carolina. She is on the Committee for Persons

with Disabilities, a Guardian Ad Litem, and the chaplain for the Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority and has served as a mentor for H.E.R. Pride of Wilson County Schools. She also served as the liaison between Wilson County Schools and the WAGES Foster Grandparent Program.

Business/Industry Representative: Patrick Brennan (reappointment)

Patrick Brennan is a product of the North Carolina public school system and the son of North Carolina educators. His mother taught ninth-grade science at Kernersville's East Forsyth High School for many years. His grandmother was educated at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), and she taught fifth grade for more than 20 years. In his professional capacity, he serves as the vice president of public policy and government relations at Learning Ally, a nonprofit dedicated to providing audiobooks that aid in the development of reading skills for students in special education. In this capacity, Brennan works nationwide with the legislatures, departments of education, and governors who have trusted Learning Ally to serve their struggling readers. He is passionate about making sure that students and teachers are the beneficiaries of taking research to practice. Brennan is a member of the board of directors of the UCSF Dyslexia Center. He also serves on the board of directors of the Strategic Education Research Partnership in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School with an MBA in finance.

UNC System Dean: André M. Green (appointment)

Dr. André M. Green is the dean of the College of Education at East Carolina University, one of North Carolina's leading producers of educators. Since joining ECU in July 2023, he has driven transformative initiatives to strengthen the college's programs, expand the state's teacher workforce, and advance student success across North Carolina, with a special focus on serving eastern North Carolina. Under his leadership, the college was selected as a North Carolina Teaching Fellows institution after nearly a decade of absence, positioning ECU to prepare more highly qualified teachers for the state while maintaining a strong commitment to the eastern region.

As a former middle and high school science and mathematics teacher, Green brings firsthand classroom experience to his leadership. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Alabama State University (1995) and Hampton University (1998), respectively, and his doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in science education from Virginia Tech (2006). He also brings extensive experience in higher education leadership, having served in multiple senior roles at the University of South Alabama, where he was a tenured full professor and one of the most externally funded faculty members in the institution's history. His career spans teaching in K-12 classrooms, mentoring future teachers, and advancing initiatives that improve student access, retention, and success at every level. At ECU, Green is committed to preparing the next generation of educators who will shape classrooms, schools, and communities across North Carolina, ensuring the college continues to be a cornerstone of the state's educational excellence.