

Presidential Assessment

Major Accomplishments

Academic Year 2022-23

UNC Board of Governors

Presidential Assessment Committee

June 6, 2023

*Updated July 11, 2023*

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Summary of updates to report presented to the Presidential Assessment Committee on June 6, 2023:

1. Updated status of Project Kitty Hawk campus programs and number of PKH employees (see page 10).
2. Updated status of state legislative policy priorities (see page 12, footnote 3).

# **LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

## System Office Leadership

* Accomplished relocation of the System Office to The Dillion in downtown Raleigh within the legislatively mandated time frame without interruption in service to institutions and the Board of Governors; relocation included successfully negotiating and executing lease space in The Dillon; major retrofit of meeting rooms; significant IT upgrades; reconfigured employee workspaces; and physically moved all System Office employees and duty stations in less than two weeks.
* Maintained a highly capable and dedicated leadership team:
  + Transitioned leadership of Academic Affairs to Dr. David English.
  + Named Darryl Bass as chief human resources officer following Matt Brody’s retirement.
  + Hired Dr. Maurice Ferrell as the new chief information officer.
  + Hired Michael Ptasienski as chief audit officer following Lynne Sanders’ retirement.
  + Filled critical vacancies in Finance and Administration, Communications, Safety and Enterprise Risk Management, Internal Audit, and Office of the Secretary.
* Reorganized the System Office Operations Division (Advancement, IT, HR, and ancillary operations) into a more cohesive and responsive operations support team, realizing almost $400,000 in recurring savings.
* Issued Systemwide regulation under delegated authority from the Board to establish performance compensation program to incentivize and reward outstanding performance and provide an alternative to increases in base compensation; program implemented at the System Office in a manner that aligned performance compensation with the System’s refreshed strategic plan adopted by the Board of Governors last year.
* Represented the University publicly and privately at events, functions, and meetings with critical internal and external public and private sector constituencies at the national and state levels.

## Systemwide Leadership

* Successfully recommended to the Board a permanent CEO and general manager of PBS North Carolina.
* Matured the Chancellors Incentive Compensation Program in Year 2 using updated strategic goals and metrics aligned with the Board of Governors’ goals for the president and continued to incorporate incentive compensation metrics in annual chancellor performance reviews and incentive compensation awards.
* Initiated planning for upcoming chancellor searches at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and Winston-Salem State University; overhauled search process to incorporate updated Board policy, streamlined and improved process efficiency, and strengthened focus on key attributes of campus leadership.
* In furtherance of the requirements of state law and University policy protecting free expression and academic freedom, developed and recommended to the Board an amendment to Section 300.5.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *Political Activities for Employees*, prohibiting compelled speech on matters of contemporary political debate or social action in university admissions, employment, or professional advancement.

# **SYSTEM OPERATIONS, FISCAL CONTROLS, AND EFFICIENCY**

## Operations, Fiscal Controls, and Efficiency – System Office

* Matured “all-funds budget” process for the System Office under the same parameters required of constituent institutions.
* For the third year in a row since President Hans took office, received a clean System Office financial statement audit with no findings.
* Maintained balanced System Office budget and enhanced business processes to achieve greater accountability and fiscal controls.
* Launched initiative to comprehensively update and improve systemwide shared services programs including inventorying all shared services, establishing consistent standards and guidelines for shared services operations, and reviewing legacy payroll shared services programs.
* Initiated evaluation of systemwide ERP options; contracted with vendor to study total cost of ownership (TCO) for shared ERP for all institutions using the Banner system and the System Office; study includes extensive feedback from campuses on business processes.
* Reestablished the System Office Project Management Office (PMO) to ensure major applications are acquired or developed and implemented according to System Office priorities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner; new PMO structure was first employed for military credit project.
* Developed plan for maximizing System Office assets (Spangler Complex, CSLD, RTP property, and NC Research Campus in Kannapolis) to determine if these assets are being deployed to the highest and best use for the University; as part of this effort, completed 99-year lease of Spangler Complex to UNC-CH.
* Improved System Office data analytics capabilities by reviewing existing data analytics structure and workflow management, assessing data analytics options, reestablishing data standards committee, and establishing new Enterprise Data Office by merging separate data analytics functions within the System Office.
* Updated System Office Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to establish operational readiness in response to emergency events at the new office location in downtown Raleigh.

## Operations, Fiscal Controls, and Efficiency – Systemwide

* Following last year’s reform of systemwide enrollment funding formula to better align resources with Board of Governors priorities, developed and implemented performance-weighting component to incentivize institutions to meet or exceed Board of Governors goals and performance metrics.
* Matured Systemwide “all-funds budget” initiative to bring greater uniformity and transparency to the budget of each constituent institution; instituted cross-functional team of System Office staff to review campus submissions and provide feedback to institutions.
* Implemented annual tuition and fees process and recommended off-cycle special tuition requests to nimbly respond to needs associated with newly approved programs.
* Strengthened Six-Year Capital Plan development for each campus by engaging directly with campus leadership to refine plans and ensure solid capital planning; Board of Governors legislative capital priorities now based on thoroughly vetted Six-Year Capital Plans.
* Implemented SCIF R&R Systemwide capital program that provides $250 million annually in repairs and renovations funding each year for the next six years.
* Conducted study of athletic program sustainability by convening campus athletic directors, evaluating fees and revenues supporting campus athletic programs, contracting with an independent consultant to determine the economic impact of campus athletics, and developing policy options to promote greater financial sustainability of these programs.
* To improve participation by historically underutilized businesses (HUB) in UNC system goods and services contracting and construction projects, collaborated with the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise to identify barriers to participation and best practices to increase participation; study report and recommendations presented to the Board in April 2023 and currently being reviewed by campus personnel; developed and implemented HUB reporting training for campus procurement personnel.
* Initiated alternative employment program (PEO), a multi-campus non-state employment program to provide flexible employment options for the System Office and institutions; contracted with ERP vendor and benefit advisor and formed 501(c)(3) through which to operate program.

## Safety and Enterprise Risk Management

* Implemented Systemwide training program on behavioral threat assessment in partnership with the US Secret Service and Safe and Sound Schools to better equip campus behavioral threat assessment teams with knowledge and skills to identify, mitigate, and manage persons who pose threats to campus safety. One hundred and sixty campus personnel were trained with 100 percent participation from 16 campuses, PBS NC, the North Carolina Arboretum, and both North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics campuses.
* Initiated development of regulation strengthening and setting Systemwide standards for campus behavioral threat assessment teams and giving clear authority for non-disciplinary suspensions for students and employees charged with certain violent crimes; new regulation will be implemented prior to start of Fall 2023 semester.
* Fully implemented a new classification and compensation structure for campus law enforcement officers to give campus leadership greater salary flexibility in recruiting and retaining officers; all 16 institutions and The Arboretum have already or are confirmed to achieve full compliance by the June 30 deadline.
* Updated the 10-year-old Systemwide Mutual Aid Agreement between the UNC System and North Carolina Emergency Management to enhance mutual aid assistance during emergency events and disasters.
* Through the System Office Risk Review Board, matured the enterprise risk management system and risk register data collection for the System Office and all constituent institutions to better capture top enterprise risks as required by UNC Policy.
* Continued to fund and implement the second year of the three-year tabletop exercise program to improve emergency preparedness at all institutions and the System Office; at each institution, chancellors and their cabinet members participated in these exercises.
* In anticipation of forthcoming new Title IX regulations, secured a surge capacity contract with several firms to assist campuses with Title IX resources when needed.
* In collaboration with campus police chiefs, established a Civil Disturbance Operations Plan (CDOP), creating a framework enabling a systematic, coordinated, and effective response to gatherings that are or have the potential to escalate to violence.
* Matured collaboration with NC Joint Cybersecurity Task Force (JCTF) to strengthen response and recovery operations for cybersecurity attacks.
* Hired a full-time director of training at the Samarcand Training Center to enhance programming and training for campus law enforcement officers.
* Conducted 11 training programs at Samarcand Training Center in which 185 campus personnel participated; training programs covered topics including first-line supervision, mental health, civil disturbance, emergency care, ICS 300/400 NIMS Course, self-defense tactics, less-lethal weapons / electronic control weapons (ECWs), advanced trauma care for law enforcement, cyber incident response, emergency CTS lethal instructor and incident response, and breaching methodologies (accessing rooms during active shooter incidents).

## D. Legal Affairs

* Envisioned, outlined, and executed Policy Update Initiative whereby *The Code* and the UNC Policy Manual are being updated in a systematic, and near consensus fashion using inputs from all 17 campuses. Known colloquially as “Festivus,” the legal affairs division is updating policies and provisions that have not been updated in decades through a consensus-building approach. The first round of policy updates resulted in revisions to Section 100.1 of the UNC Policy Manual, *The Code*, which were approved by the Board in May 2023.
* System Office litigation costs continue to decline due to good leadership and management (which results in less lawsuits).
* Executing on President Hans’ priority of transparency and attention to detail, public records request pipeline averages two to three requests pending per month, down from over 50 requests backlogged prior to President Hans’ arrival.
* Continue to manage University of North Carolina School of the Arts litigation.
* Continue to lead from the front on emerging legal issues facing all institutions across the System, including NIL compliance and public records management.
* Implemented best practice of evaluating lessons learned when settling litigation which requires the System Office and campuses to reflect on what lessons have been learned or practices have been improved in response to the litigation to mitigate against future situations.

# **POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORMS**

## UNC Policies

* Effectively recommended policy reforms to the Board of Governors, including the following amendments to the UNC Policy Manual:
  + Sections 600.1.1 and 200.6, expanding delegated authorities for approval of construction projects to conform to statutory changes.
  + Section 700.1.1 revision minimum eligibility requirements for undergraduate admission (minimum high school course requirements).
  + Section 700.10.1, awarding credit for prior learning for certain credentials, licenses, and professional certifications.
  + Section 700.1.3, increasing the out-of-state enrollment cap from 18 percent to 25 percent at five UNC System institutions experiencing enrollment declines.
  + Section 300.5.1, prohibiting compelled speech in hiring and admissions.
  + Sections 101.3.2, 101.3.3, 100.1, *The Code* Chapter V, 100.1, *The Code* Chapter VI, 100.1, *The Code* Chapter VII, and 100.1, *The Code* Appendix 1 as part of comprehensive UNC Policy Manual update review (see Legal Affairs above).
  + Section 200.8, updating the chancellor search process.
  + Section 400.3.4 strengthening faculty workload requirements.[[1]](#footnote-1)

## Regulations

* Issued regulations to further advance the University’s mission, implement policy changes, and comply with legal requirements:
  + Section 300.2.14.1[R] implementing deferred compensation program for Tier I Senior Academic and Administrative Officers.
  + Section 300.2.14[R] authorizing deferred compensation for performance awards made under the chancellor incentive program.
  + Section 300.2.21[R] establishing a new classification and compensation program for campus law enforcement officers.
  + Section 300.8.7[R] updating requirements for pre-employment background checks and applicant salary history.
  + Section 400.1.13[R] requiring notification to the system office of major changes to accreditation status, federal student aid, licensure, and similar regulatory requirements.
  + Section 700.7.1[R] updating services and support-structure requirements for military-affiliated students.
  + Section 700.10.1[R] establishing credit for prior learning.
* Directed North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) to conduct a thorough review of policies and procedures across its programs to ensure consistency, legal and regulatory compliance, and efficiency, resulting in updated General Statutes and Board of Directors’ policies, and revised agency procedures.

# **ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

## Enrollment and Retention

* Developed and implemented comprehensive approach for reviewing and coordinating institutional enrollment plans to estimate future enrollment projections and improve campus enrollment planning.
* Conducted adult learner outreach campaign, resulting in 918 enrollments for Fall 2022 and 253 enrollments for Spring 2023.

## Access and Affordability (including NCSEAA initiatives)

* Recommended in-state undergraduate tuition rates remain flat for seventh straight year, and average student fee increases totaling less than 1 percent and limited to only those necessary to defray the impacts of inflationary costs. Recommendations were approved by the Board of Governors.
* Directed NCSEAA to transition away from the defunct Federal Family Education Loan Program and sell the old loan portfolio, providing an ongoing source of funding for reinvigorating college access outreach efforts, including evidence-based modernized marketing and communications for CFNC.org, effective for the 2023-24 academic year.
* Through NCSEAA and in consultation with NCCCS, led the development and implementation of the new consolidated state scholarship program “NC Scholarship,” including publishing a clear and understandable payment schedule for aid year 2023-24, selecting a new third-party marketing and communications partner to brand the program, and providing one-time funds to smooth universities’ transition to the new program.
* Directed NCSEAA to increase its focus on Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion:
  + Created the public-facing [FAFSA Tracker](https://www.cfnc.org/fafsa-tools/fafsa-tracker/) at [www.CFNC.org/fafsatracker](http://www.CFNC.org/fafsatracker), providing local leaders with current data on FAFSA completions in NC school districts and individual schools.
  + Increased FAFSA programming for families, high school counselors, and private K-12 schools.
  + As of April 23, 2023, NC’s FAFSA completions for high school seniors were up 5.7 percent from the same period last year.
* Launched initiative to explore and test models for externally funded tuition payment plans; collaborating with external partners, including OSHR, and developed pilot program.
* Preparing new regulation to establish a consistent methodology for calculating students’ full cost-of-attendance.
* Launched “Credential As You Go” initiative which has resulted in new credit/non-credit programs at four North Carolina community colleges and three UNC institutions.

## Student Success

* Across summer 2022 and summer 2023, allocated $17.7 million in Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds summer financial aid to help students stay on track or accelerate their path to on-time completion.
* Allocated $1 million in GEER funding to support a re-engagement campaign for stopped out students, resulting in 1,100 students returning in Fall 2023 and Spring 2023.
* Allocated $2 million in GEER funding to implement the Transfer, Accelerate, Complete and Engage (TrACE) pilot program for community college students transferring to UNCG, ECU, and App State, resulting in 99 percent retention rate, average GPAs above 3.1, and average 95 percent completion of credits. System Office has raised an additional $1.3 in private philanthropy to scale and evaluate the program in future years.
* Provided leadership to the SHEEO North Carolina Transfer Task Force in partnership with the North Carolina Community College System and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities; implementing the first of the task force recommendations and leading a comprehensive review and redesign of baccalaureate degree plans that guide NCCCS to UNC transfers.
* Established Financial Literacy and Wellness Working Group, comprised of campus partners, to make recommendations on programs and practices that should be implemented Systemwide to promote financial wellness.
* Partnered with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to develop and expand resources across the System to educate students on financial literacy; convened the first-ever Student Financial Literacy Symposium at UNC Charlotte.

## Student Mental Health and Resiliency

* Following last year’s $5 million grant from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to support student mental health initiatives, awarded a second GEER grant of $7.7 million to support additional student mental health and resiliency efforts, including:
  + Continuing to fund telehealth and crisis counseling services for all UNC System students through Systemwide contract with ProtoCall, the nation’s largest provider of these services.
  + Awarding micro grants to support off-campus referrals for student mental health services that cannot be provided on campus.
  + Expanding shared telepsychiatry pilot program to address mental health care gaps at a total of eight institutions. During the initial phase of the pilot program, over 150 students were served. The System Office formed the Shared Psychiatry Advisory Resource Board to coordinate implementation across all pilot campuses.
  + Creating Systemwide resiliency training for incoming students in collaboration with the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania to equip students with resilience skills so they can better manage challenges and crises.
  + Hiring 12 case managers to provide case management support at selected institutions across the System.
  + Instituted Systemwide suicide prevention training program using the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) model; awarded 59 QPR training grants across all three higher education sectors (UNC System, North Carolina Community College System, and North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities); with these awards it is anticipated that 20,000 people will complete QPR training and 600 faculty, staff, and students will be trained as instructors.
  + Awarded eight competitive resilience grants to campuses totaling $1.6 million to test innovative programs and best practices; programs chosen for funding included broad collaborations across campus units such as student health, student recreation center, and student housing; programs will be evaluated for outcomes and scalability.
  + Piloting several programs designed to promote student well-being, address mental health and substance abuse concerns, including programs specifically designed for student athletes.
* Organized and hosted second annual behavioral health convening for the UNC System, NCCCS, and NCICU personnel and students focused on student mental health and wellness.
* Continued to offer Mental Health First Aid training to the UNC System, NCCCS, and NCICU personnel; a total of 322 instructors have been certified.
* Developed plans for all institutions to participate in the Healthy Minds Survey and develop campus-level goals and strategies based on survey findings; negotiated and secured a Systemwide contract with the University of Michigan to administer the survey.

## Student Health

* Continued work of the Board of Governors Task Force on Pricing, Flexibility, and Affordability, which charged the System Office with developing an implementation plan for a self-funded student health insurance plan to lower costs to students and the System. The president provided funding for the System Office to hire a health plan expert to serve as project lead and contract with an external firm to develop the implementation plan for presentation to the Board in Fall 2023.
* For the third year in a row, successfully negotiated renewal of student health insurance contract with minimal premium increase for students.
* Launched competitive bid process to secure vendor for affordable inbound, outbound, and business travel health insurance plans.

# **STRENGTHENING UNC’S MISSION**

## Health Affairs

* Along with Board Chair Randy Ramsey, led development of collaboration between UNC Health, ECU Brody School of Medicine, and ECU Health aimed at strengthening health care in rural North Carolina focusing initially on Eastern North Carolina. The NC Care initiative includes establishing jointly operated regional centers of care, an integrated clinical network, rural residences, and resources to strengthen rural hospitals.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Developed legislative proposals to comprehensively update and modernize statutory authorities for UNC Health and ECU/Brody School of Medicine, which have not been updated in 25 years.
* Continued to facilitate integration of ECU Brody School of Medicine and ECU Health under Joint Operating Agreement adopted in January 2022, providing leadership and direction on legal, fiscal, and operational integration issues.

## Academic Programs and Affairs

* Launched Faculty Policy Initiative to comprehensively review and modernize UNC System policies governing faculty employment, some of which have not been updated in decades. Six committees, comprised of faculty and provosts across the System along with System Office leadership, reviewed faculty policies in the following six topic areas: retirement incentives, workload, post-tenure review, professional track faculty, teaching evaluation, and recognition. The first updated policy to emerge from this initiative is a comprehensive rewrite of the Faculty Workload Policy, which was approved by the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs in May 2023.
* Continued Systemwide return on investment evaluation conducted by independent consultant to examine productivity, true costs, and taxpayer ROI for academic programs in the UNC System; study work remains on schedule and will be completed within the legislatively mandated deadline of November 18, 2023.
* Reoriented the academic degree program approval process and timeline to allow for greater focus on the System’s strategic plan in new academic program planning.
* Monitoring sponsored research at our institutions, the UNC System brought in $2.2 billion in externally funded research, the most ever, despite receiving less COVID-19 relief funding for sponsored programs this year.
* Developed process for tracking and regulating non-degree program credentials.
* Managed the closure of Living Arts College (private institution subject to Board licensure requirements), calling in the tuition bond to ensure students are made whole and ensuring 100 percent transfer of records to the State Archives.

## Project Kitty Hawk

* Project Kitty Hawk, Inc. (PKH) has signed a Master Service Agreement (MSA) with ECU and is in the final stages of a signed MSA with NC Central. Under these contracts, the two inaugural partners will launch the first Kitty Hawk-powered programs in academic year 2023-24. In addition, the organization has secured Letters of Intent to formally engage in a discovery process with 8 other UNC System institutions.
* PKH has made key hires including chief of staff, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and director of people operations. In total, PKH has hired 47 full-time staff, 70 percent of which reside in North Carolina.
* PKH obtained 501(c)3 determination from the Internal Revenue Service and submitted its first Form 990.
* PKH has established working contracts related to technology with Amazon Web Services, Archer Education, ReUp, ACUE, Collegis, Accenture, Salesforce, Verity, Canvas, ProfHire, Okta, and N2N.
* PKH has convened an Academic Advisory Group featuring faculty and staff from all 17 institutions and chaired by Elizabeth City State University Chancellor Karrie Dixon.
* PKH has partnered with the NC Chamber to develop a Workforce Advisory Group.
* PKH has presented on its progress to the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Board of Governors Committee on Strategic Initiatives, and Congressional staff in Washington, DC.
* The first PKH per-credit tuition maximum was proposed and approved by the Board of Governors in April 2023.
* PKH has funded a re-engagement campaign that will help UNC campuses recruit students who have stopped out prior to earning a degree. PKH selected ReUP Education as the partner to contact stop-outs and recruit them back to the System to complete their degrees. Eight UNC institutions (ECU, UNCA, UNCG, UNCP, UNCW, WCU, WSSU, UNCC) have chosen to participate in the re-engagement campaign, with five (ECU, UNCA, UNCG, UNCP, UNCW) in the market with ReUP as of 6/30.

## Teacher Preparation & K-12 Initiatives

* Concluded legislatively mandated Science of Reading Implementation Report in partnership with NCICU and an external research partner, which evaluated alignment of educator preparation coursework with the best evidence on effective reading instruction across UNC System and NCICU institutions.
* In response to campuses receiving substandard ratings on the Science of Reading Implementation Report, directed those campuses to develop an improvement action plan and report by July 1 on evidence of actions taken to address deficiencies identified in the report.
* Funded third-party technical assistance to help campuses take actions necessary to comply with the Excellent Public Schools Act and the UNC System Literacy Framework.
* Successfully implemented expansions to NCSEAA’s private K-12 scholarship programs:
  + Increased scholarship awards in the Opportunity Scholarship program for students with financial need by $54 million for a total of $134 million.
  + Finalized the consolidation of two programs for students with disabilities into the new ESA+ program and increased awards by $20 million for total awards of $38 million.

## Military Affairs

* Following adoption of military credit regulation to provide consistency across the System in awarding academic credit for military training and experience, developed a military credit equivalency crosswalk and implementation guide for constituent institutions, and evaluated options for a public-facing tool to assist institutions and students navigate military credit equivalencies.
* Launched digital marketing campaign to increase outreach to prospective military affiliated students; currently assessing campaign impact on military-affiliated student enrollment.
* Executed partnership agreement with Air Force AFWERX to strengthen ties between UNC System institutions and Air Force partners.
* Working with military partners, including USASOC SWCS, engaged in efforts to identify key academic programs for military learners with potential to deliver through Project Kitty Hawk.
* Signed MOU with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to support collaboration with USASOC SWCS (Civil Affairs) to review Civil Affairs track for credit toward certificate/bachelor’s degree pathway.
* Continued to support mental health needs of veterans and military-affiliated students by delivering additional Mental Health First Aid training specialized for campus faculty and staff serving veterans and military-affiliated students; trained over 120 personnel in the UNC System, NCCS, and NCICU.
* Awarded $230,000 grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) for QPR suicide intervention course for Veteran Care Providers. This six-hour training program is designed by veterans and its single purpose is to prevent suicide among veterans, National Guard members, and military reserves and active military.

## Economic Impact

* As a member of the NC Innovation Board of Directors, worked to shape organizational strategy and legislative request to ensure true statewide impact and participation by UNC System institutions.
* Developed engagement plan with business and industry leaders to identify academic program needs to better serve business and industry in the state; engagement plan will be launched over the summer to include regional employer listening sessions across the state; engagement results and recommendations will be presented to the president in Spring 2024.
* Matured Systemwide Economic Transformation Council by strengthening membership and established operating procedures to bring greater focus to ETC’s work.

# **ADVOCACY**

## State Legislative Advocacy[[3]](#footnote-3)

* For the third straight year, developed Systemwide legislative budget priorities focusing on key priorities and critical needs: faculty retirement incentive program, enrollment funding with performance-weighted and stop loss components, completion assistance grants, cybersecurity, distinguished professorship matching funds, and compensation increases for UNC System employees on par with other state employees.
* For the third straight year, developed Systemwide legislative capital priorities, focusing on repair and renovation of existing facilities and infrastructure, and targeted new capital requests based on updated and thoroughly vetted Six-Year Capital Plans.
* Developed and successfully advocated for focused legislative policy priorities:
  + Authorizing self-liquidating capital projects.
  + Extending county operations support staff designation to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University cooperative extension employees.
  + Expanding Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund eligibility to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.
  + Exempting certain UNC System employees from the State Human Resources Act.
  + Exempting equipment transfers between UNC System institutions from NC Department of Administration approval.

## Federal Advocacy

* Developed Systemwide federal legislative policy and funding priorities for FY 2024 and delivered to all North Carolina congressional delegation offices.
* For the third year in a row, secured $8 million in Department of Defense (DOD) programmatic funding for the Airborne Pathfinder program, a collaboration between UNC System institutions and Ft. Bragg (now Ft. Liberty) to develop soldier-related innovations.
* Coordinated with North Carolina congressional delegation to secure an additional $3.5 million for Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, the largest increase to date, in the Department of Education budget.
* Secured $230,000 in federal funding for statewide QPR suicide prevention training.
* Organized Capitol Hill policy briefing on Project Kitty Hawk for North Carolina delegation staff, as well as education and veterans committee staff.
* Successfully developed and submitted a request for $7.8 million in federal grant to support digital transformation for prospective Project Kitty Hawk partners. The package included letters of support from select UNC System chancellors. Request submitted to Senator Tillis who included it in his requests to the LHHS-Education subcommittee.
* Held event honoring retiring North Carolina congressional delegation members, Senator Richard Burr and Representatives David Price and G.K. Butterfield.
* President Hans participated with other North Carolina higher education institutions in Welcome 118th Congress Event in Washington, DC.

1. Approved by the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs on May 24, 2023; pending full approval by the Board of Governors at the Board’s meeting on July 20, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. NC Care initiative authorized and fully funded in Senate version of the 2023 Appropriations Act. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. As of the date of this report, all legislative policy priorities have been enacted; the 2023 Appropriations Act is in conference. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)