

AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION OPENS

Location: Salon III-IV Foyer

2:00 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Session I : (Closed) Fresh Voices, Fierce Vision: The New Guard of Black Leadership

Location: Crabtree F-H

This session supports Black elected leaders in navigating state and local leadership. Participants will reflect, strategize, and connect while exploring how to build influence and shape a policy agenda grounded in both values and political realities.

- **Moderator:** Kara Early Blue

SESSION II: BALLOTS, BATTLEFIELDS, AND THE BALANCE OF POWER IN NC

Location: Crabtree D-E

This session will explore election trends, the role of redistricting and voter engagement, and how local, state and federal races intersect in a state that has constantly shifted control. Participants will explore strategies on navigating NC's political landscape.

- **Moderator: Marcus Bass**, Incoming Executive Director, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **Tyler Daye**, Program Manager, Common Cause
- **Marques Thompson**, Organizing Director, Democracy NC

- **Danielle Brown**, N.C. State Coordinator, Black Voters Matter
- **Dawn Blagrove**, Executive Director Emancipate NC

SESSION III: CONNECTING CLERGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Location: Crabtree A-C

Black clergy have long stood at the intersection of faith and justice—serving as spiritual leaders, civic voices, and community advocates. This session explores the evolving role of Black faith leaders in the political landscape, from shaping policy conversations to mobilizing voter engagement and social change.

- **Moderator: Rev. CJ Brinson**, Statewide Faith Constituency Coordinator, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **The Honorable Amos Quick**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 58
- **Pastor James Gailliard**, Senior Pastor, Word Tabernacle Church
- **Letha Muhammed**, Executive Director, Education Justice Alliance
- **Toshiba Rice**, Member, Wake County School Board

6:00 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION

SPONSORED BY SPRING LIFE BEHAVIORAL CARE LLC

North Carolina Executive Mansion

200 N Blount Street, Raleigh

(Separate registration required to attend)

8:00 p.m.

NETWORKING RECEPTION

SPONSORED BY: SOUTHERN VISION ALLIANCE

1000 Social at the Exchange

1000 Social Street, Raleigh



Friday, April 24, 2026

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Location: Salon III-IV Foyer

8:30 a.m.

OPENING SESSION

Location: Glenwood Ballroom

CALL TO ORDER & CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Honorable Richard Hooker, Past Board Chair, North Carolina Black Alliance

GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH

The Honorable Stormie Forte
Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Raleigh

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Bankole Akinbinu
Senior Pastor, Baptist Grove Church

NCBA COMMITMENT STATEMENTS VIDEO

THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE

The Honorable Valerie Foushee
U.S. House of Representatives (D-NC, 4)
Board Chair, North Carolina Black Alliance

INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP FIRESIDE CHAT

- **Introduction: Dr. Jovita Lee Miller**, Deputy Director, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **The Honorable Brad Thompson**, Founder and Former Executive Director, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **Courtney Crowder**, Executive Director, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **Marcus Bass**, Incoming Executive Director, North Carolina Black Alliance

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Jovita Lee Miller



OPENING SPEAKER

The Honorable Kandie Smith
North Carolina State Senate, District 5
Chair, North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

CLOSING

The Honorable Richard Hooker

10:15 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE TOWN HALL

Location: Crabtree Ballroom (General Session)

- **Moderator: Dr. Jovita Lee Miller**, Deputy Director, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **The Honorable Sydney Batch**, N.C. Senate, District 17
- **The Honorable Kandie Smith**, N.C. Senate, District 5
- **The Honorable Natalie Murdock**, N.C. Senate, District 20
- **The Honorable Caleb Theodros**, N.C. Senate, District 41
- **The Honorable Robert Reives**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 54
- **The Honorable Zack Hawkins**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 31
- **The Honorable Jordan Lopez**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 112
- **The Honorable Rodney Pierce**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 27

11:30 a.m.

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

Location: Glenwood Ballroom Hallway



12:00 p.m.

SENATOR JEANNE H. LUCAS LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY THE COLLECTIVE COURAGE FUND

Location: Glenwood Ballroom

Presiding: The Honorable Viola Harris
Edgecombe County Commissioner
Past Board Chair, North Carolina Black Alliance

GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF WAKE COUNTY

The Honorable Shinica Thomas, Chair, Wake County Board of Commissioners

INVOCATION

Bishop Ronald L. Godbee, Senior Lead Pastor, The River Church Durham

SPONSOR REMARKS

Erin Dale McClellan, Executive Director, The Collective Courage Fund

NORTH CAROLINA IMPACT VIDEO

Marcus Bass, Incoming Executive Director, North Carolina Black Alliance

VOICES OF HISTORY MAKERS

- **Dr. Marvin Connelly**, Former Superintendent, Cumberland County Schools
- **Dr. Frankie Denise Powell**, F.O.R. Powell & Associates
- **Courtney Patterson**, Eastern Organizer, BluePrint NC
- **Leonard Springs**, Chair of The Mildred Springs and Ella Springs Jones Scholarship Foundation

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Faith Howell-Bey, Triangle Regional Manager, Advance North Carolina

PLENARY SPEAKER

Lynae Vanee

Poet & Social Media Influencer



CLOSING

The Honorable Viola Harris

2:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT POLICY SESSIONS

SESSION I: POWERING INTELLIGENCE: THE PROMISE AND PRICE OF AI DATA CENTERS

Location: Crabtree A-D

As artificial intelligence accelerates, so does the infrastructure needed to power it. This session explores key opportunities and tradeoffs, including impacts on electricity demand, water use, land development, and local economies. Panelists will discuss how utilities, tech companies, communities, and policymakers can navigate this moment.

- **Moderator: Dionne Lester**, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, NC Black Alliance
- **Thomas I. Parrish, IV**, Retired NCGOV Chief Technology Officer
- **Mozine Lowe**, Executive Director, Center for Energy Education
- **The Honorable DeAndrea Salvador**, North Carolina Senate, District 39
- **April Dawson**, Associate Dean of Technology and Innovation, North Carolina Central University

- **Lilyn Hester**, Global Community Development & Engagement, Google

SESSION II: COOPERATIVE ECONOMY

SPONSORED BY: THE PARTNERSHIP FUND & MARY REYNOLDS BABCOCK

Location: Crabtree E-F

This session explores the principles, history, and transformative potential of Black cooperative wealth, self-determination, and community resilience. Rooted in traditions of mutual aid and collective ownership, it offers an alternative to extractive systems by centering shared prosperity and cultural values.

- **Moderator: Erin Dale McClellan**, Executive Director, The Collective Courage Fund
- **Moses Matthews**, Albemarle Sounds Farmers Co-Op
- **Guy Cousins**, 3 Sisters Co-Op
- **Samone Bullock Dillahunt**, Fertile Ground Food Co-Op
- **The Honorable Ray Jeffers**, N.C. House of Representatives, District 2
- **Joshua McClenney**, Atlantic Coast Program Officer, Hive Fund

3:15 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

Location: Glenwood Ballroom Hallway



3:45 p.m.

BREAKOUT POLICY SESSIONS

SESSION III: EVERY CHILD, EVERY COUNTY: THE LEANDRO DEBATE

Location: Crabtree A-D

The landmark case *Leandro v. State of North Carolina* affirms every child's right to a sound, basic education. Educators, policymakers, and advocates will examine the case's implications and what it reveals about the challenge of delivering equitable education for every child.

- **Moderator: Tamika Walker Kelly**, Executive Director, NCAE
- **Jenice Ramirez**, Co-Executive Director, Education Justice Alliance
- **The Honorable Monika Johnson-Hostler**, N.C. House of Representative, District 33
- **Rev. Corine Mack, President**, NAACP Charlotte-Mecklenburg Branch

SESSION IV: INVISIBLE THREATS, REAL IMPACT: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN FOCUS

Location: Crabtree E-F

This discussion brings together experts and changemakers to examine how environmental factors shape lived realities and health outcomes. Panelists will explore how health and environmental inequities reinforce each other, with pollution and limited resources shaping community health. Learn strategies for advocacy, policy reform, and collective action that center Black voices and advance environmental justice.

- **Moderator: Karida Giddings**, Access to Healthcare Program Manager, North Carolina Black Alliance
- **Adenike Adeyeye**, State Strategist, Climate & Clean Energy Equity Fund
- **Chris Suggs**, Executive Director, Kinston Teens
- **Dr. Undi Hoffler**, Director, Research Compliance & Technology Transfer, Division of Research and Sponsored Programs, North Carolina Central University
- **The Honorable Natalie Murdock**, N.C. Senate, District 20

6:00 p.m.

RALPH CAMPBELL JR. LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

Location: Capital Room

Entertainment provided by Lartey Cade

Presiding: **Dr. Jovita Lee Miller &
The Honorable Brad Thompson**

RECOGNITION OF NORTH CAROLINA BLACK ALLIANCE FOUNDERS (formerly Alliance of North Carolina Black Elected Officials)

7:00 p.m.

20TH ANNUAL NC BLACK SUMMIT BANQUET

SPONSORED BY N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND COMPLIANCE

Location: Glenwood Ballroom

WELCOME

The Honorable Valerie P. Foushee

U.S. House of Representatives D-NC 4, Chair,
North Carolina Black Alliance

INVOCATION

Pastor James Gailliard, Senior Pastor, Word
Tabernacle Church

DINNER SERVED

*Entertainment:
Sumthin 4 Tha People*



RECOGNITION OF PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Monique Colvin, Development Director, North
Carolina Black Alliance

SPONSOR REMARKS

Tunya Smith, Director, N.C. DOT Office of
Economic Opportunity and Compliance

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Katesha Phillips, Director of Constituent Services
& Community Engagement, North Carolina Black
Alliance

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Angela Rye, CEO & Founder
IMPACT Strategies



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Courtney Crowder, Executive Director, North
Carolina Black Alliance

CONEN MORGAN TRAILBLAZER AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- **Kerwin Pittman**, Founder & Executive
Director, Recidivism Reduction
Educational Program Services, Inc.
- **T. Olu Rouse**, Student, North Carolina A&T
State University
- **Ashlei Blue**, Former Executive Director,
America Votes

SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

The Honorable Valerie Foushee

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY CHAMPAGNE TOAST

The Honorable Brad Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSING

The Honorable Valerie Foushee