

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SYSTEM

Artificial Intelligence Leadership Council

2025-2026

The North Carolina Community College System's Artificial Intelligence Leadership Council (AILC) brings together leaders from colleges across the state to help shape how artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies support student success, workforce readiness, and institutional innovation.

Composed of thirteen members representing college presidents, technology leaders, instructional leaders, student support professionals, and workforce development experts, the Council provides strategic guidance on the opportunities and challenges presented by AI and related technologies.

As a standing systemwide leadership body, the AILC works to advance responsible, ethical, and effective use of artificial intelligence across instruction, student services, and college operations.

Through collaboration and the sharing of promising practices, the Council helps position North Carolina's community colleges to prepare learners, workers, and communities for success in an increasingly technology-driven economy while expanding access to future-focused educational and career opportunities.

SWIPE UP TO LEARN MORE



Dr. Ken Ingle

President

Alamance Community College

Dr. Ken Ingle is President of Alamance Community College, where he has driven sustained enrollment growth and expanded programs, including the launch of a new public safety campus. With nearly two decades of higher education leadership, he brings expertise in technology, strategic vision, and community engagement, supported by advanced degrees and active service on statewide and regional boards.

Alamance Community College is known for integrating workforce training with community partnerships across business, healthcare, and public safety sectors. Its programs are structured to meet the evolving needs of employers while expanding access to higher education.



Dr. Mark Sorrells

President

Fayetteville Technical Community College

Dr. Mark Sorrells has more than 40 years of leadership in workforce and economic development across North Carolina, with experience spanning teaching in the community college system, developing K-12 and higher education partnerships, and helping design innovative workforce initiatives aligned with industry needs. His work has helped advance statewide workforce strategies in key sectors including biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, aerospace manufacturing, and cybersecurity.

He currently serves as the fifth president of Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC), a predominately minority-serving institution that supports a diverse student population, including a large military population. Under his leadership, FTCC is leveraging AI to enhance student onboarding, streamline administrative processes, and integrate AI-driven applications across academic programs to create a Future Ready workforce. AI is already embedded in several high-demand workforce areas, including paralegal studies, English, nursing, and computer technology pathways, where students are learning to use AI as a tool within their career pathway to enhance their skill set and drive productivity.



Dr. Janet Spriggs

President

Forsyth Technical Community College

Dr. Janet Spriggs is President of Forsyth Technical Community College, bringing 30 years of leadership within the North Carolina Community College System and earning national recognition as a three-time Aspen Presidential Fellow. A first-generation community college graduate, she is a student-centered leader dedicated to expanding access, advancing student success, and driving institutional innovation through strategic initiatives like Vision 2030.

Serving a diverse urban population, Forsyth Technical Community College focuses on high-impact programs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. The college was recognized as a semi-finalist for the 2026 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and is known for driving large-scale student success initiatives and regional workforce alignment.



Mr. Zac Schnell

President

Pamlico Community College

Zac Schnell is President of Pamlico Community College, where he leads innovative, workforce-focused education initiatives in eastern North Carolina. A national voice on artificial intelligence in education, he advances practical AI integration in teaching, safety, and workforce development, with his work recognized by NPR for innovation in community colleges.

Located in eastern North Carolina, Pamlico Community College delivers accessible, career-focused education in a rural setting, prioritizing student engagement and community impact. It has gained attention for integrating new technologies into instruction to enhance learning and workforce preparation.



Dr. David Shockley

President
Surry Community College

Surry Community College serves a largely rural region in northwest North Carolina, offering accessible education with strengths in workforce development, health sciences, and technical programs. The college plays a key role in supporting local industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and skilled trades.



Mr. Cris Harshman

Vice President of Operations / CIO
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Mr. Cris Harshman is Vice President of Operations and Chief Information Officer at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, where he leads institution-wide initiatives in technology, infrastructure, and operational strategy. With nearly two decades at A-B Tech, he drives innovation through data-informed decision-making and the integration of emerging technologies, including AI, to enhance instruction, student services, and institutional effectiveness.

Located in western North Carolina, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College serves a diverse population with programs spanning workforce training, college transfer, and continuing education. The college is closely aligned with regional needs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and the area's growing entrepreneurial economy, while also advancing artificial intelligence through applied initiatives including secure, self-hosted AI infrastructure, faculty and staff experimentation with generative AI tools, and emerging practices in AI-supported development, policy, and workforce innovation.



Dr. Amy Bruining

Vice President of Student Affairs
Central Piedmont Community College

Dr. Amy Bruining is Vice President of Student Affairs at Central Piedmont Community College, where she leads comprehensive efforts to support student access, engagement, and success across the full student journey. With more than 25 years of experience, she champions student-centered initiatives that address basic needs and drive enrollment growth while advancing a culture of care and completion.

Central Piedmont Community College is a large, urban institution serving the Charlotte region with extensive academic, workforce, and continuing education programs. The college is a major driver of regional talent development, with strong partnerships supporting industries such as finance, healthcare, and information technology.



Dr. Jonathan Davis

Vice President of Technology, Cybersecurity, & Innovation
Cleveland Community College

Dr. Jonathan Davis is Vice President of Technology, Cybersecurity, and Innovation and Chief Information Officer at Cleveland Community College, where he leads enterprise technology strategy and oversees cybersecurity, digital operations, and institutional AI initiatives. With more than two decades of experience at CCC, he focuses on practical, responsible technology adoption that strengthens security, ensures compliance, and supports student success.

Cleveland Community College serves Cleveland County with a focus on career and technical education aligned to local workforce needs in manufacturing, healthcare, and public safety. The college emphasizes hands-on training and industry partnerships to support regional economic growth.



Ms. Kris Burris

Vice President of Student Success & Enrollment Management
College of The Albemarle

Ms. Kris Burris is Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management at College of The Albemarle, where she leads integrated strategies to advance enrollment, retention, and completion while aligning with regional workforce needs. With more than two decades of experience, she is a recognized leader in adult learner success and data-informed practices, contributing to statewide and national efforts to strengthen community college student outcomes.

College of The Albemarle serves northeastern North Carolina through multiple campuses, providing education and workforce training across a largely rural and coastal region. The college offers programs tailored to local industries, including healthcare, aviation systems, and skilled trades. It is also advancing the use of artificial intelligence through initiatives such as a generative AI acceptable use policy, customized AI tools for employees, a standing AI work team, and a “bite-sized” professional development series to support faculty and staff.

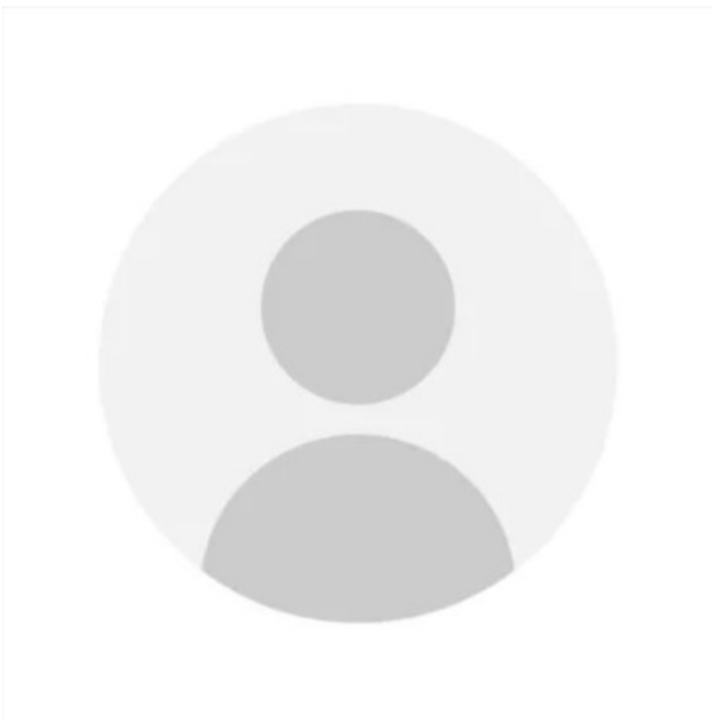


Dr. Scott Queen

Vice President of Economic & Workforce Development
Isothermal Community College

Dr. Scott Queen is a senior community college leader with more than 25 years of experience advancing student success, workforce development, and institutional operations across North Carolina. He brings deep expertise in strategic planning, financial stewardship, and industry partnerships, supporting program growth, workforce pipelines, and long-term organizational sustainability.

Isothermal Community College serves Rutherford and Polk counties with a focus on accessible education and workforce readiness in a rural setting. The college supports regional industries through programs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and public service.



Dr. Isai Robledo

Dean of Workforce Development & Community Strategies
Randolph Community College

Randolph Community College serves Randolph County with programs designed to meet workforce needs in manufacturing, healthcare, and technical fields. The college also offers specialized programs in areas such as photography and emergency services, reflecting both local demand and institutional strengths.



Dr. Jerry Edmonds

Vice President of Workforce & Community Engagement
Vance-Granville Community College

Dr. Jerry E. Edmonds III is Vice President of Workforce and Community Engagement at Vance-Granville Community College, where he leads initiatives that connect education, economic development, and small business growth. Drawing on experience in both higher education and industry, he focuses on expanding workforce opportunities and strengthening partnerships to support regional economic vitality.

Vance-Granville Community College serves multiple counties in northern North Carolina, providing accessible education and workforce training across a predominantly rural service area. The college focuses on career pathways in healthcare, public safety, and technical trades to support regional economic mobility.

Past AI Leadership Council Members



Dr. Randy Ledford

Served: 01/2026 - 07/2026

Vice President of Academic Affairs & Institutional Effectiveness
Mitchell Community College

Mitchell Community College serves Iredell County with a strong mix of college transfer, workforce training, and continuing education programs. The college is known for its historic campus and its role in supporting regional growth in healthcare, skilled trades, and emerging industries.