

CFNC Countdown to College (C2C) Regional Training

UNC Charlotte

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025



CFNC
COLLEGE for
NORTH CAROLINA



8:30 a.m.

Check-In

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Julie Cross, Community
Impact Director, TIAA
&
Barbara Seyter, Deputy Director
of Undergraduate Admission,
UNC Charlotte

9:10 a.m.

CFNC 25^h Anniversary Celebration
Continues and CFNC Updates

Timeka Ruffin, CFNC Associate
Outreach Director, Southwest

9:20 a.m.

NC College Connect

Estefane Santiago-Lopez,
College Access and Success Manager
GEAR UP NC

9:35 a.m.

Federal and State Financial Aid Updates

Tyler Dew, Manager for College Access and
FAFSA Outreach Initiatives, NCSEAA

9:50 a.m.

Local Financial Aid Updates

Bruce Blackmon, Director of
Financial Aid, UNC Charlotte
&
Dr. Shawn Weathers, Director of
Financial Aid, Central Piedmont Community
College

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Virtual Reality College Tours
Cone 111

Estefane Santiago-Lopez,
College Access and Success Manager
GEAR UP NC

NC Careers and Career
Development Plans
Cone 112

Jamie Vaughn, NCcareers Manager,
NC Commerce – LEAD

Countdown to College (C2C)
Overview and Best Practices 101
Cone 113

Tyler Dew, Manager for College Access and
FAFSA Outreach Initiatives, NCSEAA

10:45-11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00-11:55 a.m.	General Session	
	College Application Week, C2C Group Strategizing, and Partnership Planning	Dr. JuanEs Ramirez, CFNC Associate Outreach Director for Special Populations, West & Timeka Ruffin, CFNC Associate Outreach Director, Southwest & Dr. Robert Locklear, myFutureNC, Regional Impact Manager, Sandhills
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions	
	MFNC FAFSA Pilot: What We Learned Cone 111	Dr. Robert Locklear, myFutureNC, Regional Impact Manager, Sandhills
	ProTools Updates/Next Step Program for Juniors Cone 112	Dr. Constance Hollingsworth-Pierce, K-12 Client Services Manager, CFNC Pathways
	Military Resources to Help with College/Career Planning Cone 113	Jess Hinsley, CFNC Associate Outreach Director, Sandhills
1:15-1:25 p.m.	Break	
1:25-2:25 p.m.	General Session	
	Supporting Special Populations with the College and Career Process	Denise Y. Rosado, LINKS Social Worker, Mecklenburg County DSS & Megan O'Neal, LINKS Supervisor, Mecklenburg County DSS & Daniela Izurieta, President & CEO, Latin Americans Working for Achievement (LAWA) & Adrienne Bowman, Associate Director of Disability Services, UNC Charlotte
2:25 p.m.	Wrap Up/Exit Surveys/C2C Materials	