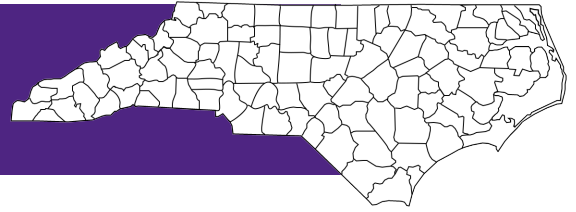


WORKSHOP 4 SPEAKERS



Loni Crumb

Crumb is an assistant professor in the Counselor Education Program in the Department of Interdisciplinary Professions at East Carolina University. She is also a licensed professional counselor. She is currently a research and innovation associate with the Rural Education Institute in the College of Education and the director of Project Don't Wait. She received the Professional Writing and Research Award from North Carolina Counseling Association in 2018 and was a recipient of the Profiles of Diversity Award, recognized for her commitment to issues of diversity, equity and social justice in her life and work. Her research interests include counseling in rural areas, rural education, promoting retention and persistence of underserved students in higher education, college student mental health, and social justice and multicultural training.



Kristen Cuthrell

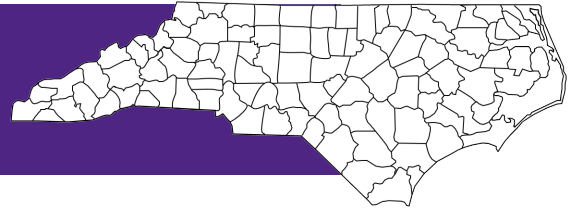
Cuthrell is a professor of elementary education and middle grades education in ECU's College of Education. She is also the director of ECU's Rural Education Institute. The institute initiates and facilitates partnerships and research-driven innovations that enhance holistic development and opportunities for pre-kindergarten to college-age students and their families in rural communities. Cuthrell has more than 20 years of experience working in the areas of educational program improvement and educator development in rural areas along the east coast.



Stella Downs

Downs is the principal of Comfort Elementary School in Trenton, N.C. Her 18 year career in education has been with Jones County Public Schools where she has served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. She was the Jones Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2007-08 and the Jones County Public Schools Principal of the Year for 2019-20. Downs believes that educators must care for the whole child in order for the child to be in a mindset for learning, and that educators may not be able to solve every problem, but they can teach coping skills to help children not only live with their problems, but also thrive and grow.

WORKSHOP 4 SPEAKERS



Vanessa Pardi

Pardi earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery and doctorate in dentistry from the State University of Campinas, Brazil. Pardi's research interest is on oral health promotion and diseases prevention. Her research evaluates preventative treatments and oral health education intervention to identify the most cost-effective and efficient methods that can be applied to decrease the disparities in oral health. Diet and nutrition, behavioral and sociodemographic factors, and their role on the maintenance of a good oral health are part of her interests as well. The goal of her research is to provide evidence-based data that supports the creation of health promotion programs that reduce the burdens of oral disease on underserved and underrepresented population.



Wanda Wright

Wright is the assistant dean of diversity, equity and inclusion and the division director of dental public health at the ECU School of Dental Medicine. She earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Maryland and is board certified in dental public health. She is the principal investigator on a Duke Endowment grant focused on building school-based oral health, prevention, and treatment programs in Bertie County. Additionally, she is the PI on a renewed Health Resources and Services Administration grant providing scholarships to disadvantaged dental students and a co-investigator on an additional HRSA grant for expanding dental residency training in special needs oral care.