



LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

Representative Rosa Gill is a product of the Wake County Public School System and a graduate of Shaw University, Raleigh, NC, with a BS Degree in Mathematics. While at Shaw University, Rosa began her political involvement by participating in the civic rights movement of the 1960s. She helped to elect the first African American Wake County Commissioner and worked on many other campaigns to elect public officials at all levels of government. She served as the Wake County Democratic Party chair, the chair of the Wake County Board of Elections and held numerous other positions within the party. She was an elected member of the Wake County School Board from 1999 to 2009. In 2009, Representative Gill was appointed to the NC House of Representatives by Former Governor Beverly Perdue. She was elected to two 2-year terms in 2010 and 2012. She continues to lead the fight to ensure that all children have access to a great education and that our teachers are treated and respected as professionals.

Representative Tom Murry is serving his second term representing North Carolina House District 41 which borders the Research Triangle Park and includes portions of Cary, Apex, Morrisville, & New Hill. Tom is a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) graduate of the University of Arkansas College of Pharmacy and is a Juris Doctor (JD) graduate of Campbell University School of Law. Professionally, Tom is a pharmacist and attorney and enjoys practicing pharmacy at various pharmacies across the Triangle and North Carolina. As a Chair of the Commerce & Job Development Committee, Tom is focused on economic development and private-sector job growth. Additionally, Dr. Murry is Chair of the Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on Business & Labor and serves as Co-Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources. He is also a member of the Insurance, Elections, and Health & Human Services policy committees.

Representative Paul Stam is currently serving his seventh term in the North Carolina House of Representatives. He was first elected to that position in 1989 and again in 2003. He has served as the House Republican Leader (2007-2010), the House Majority Leader (2011-2012), and is the Speaker Pro Tem (2013-present). Representative Stam has worked for more freedom and less government in areas like providing school choice to empower parents to ensure quality schooling for their children, pro-life protection for mothers and children, protection from condemnation and annexation abuse, fairness to state employees, access to affordable quality health care and finding a solution to illegal immigration. Representative Stam received a Bachelor of Science with High Honors from the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University. He graduated from the Law School of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975. Since 1976, Representative Stam has lived and worked in Apex as an attorney.

Senator Josh Stein has represented Senate District 16 since 2009. His priorities are job creation, public education, transportation, clean water, and clean energy. Josh's career has been dedicated to public service. Josh served as North Carolina's Deputy Attorney General for Consumer Protection for eight years. Prior to joining the Attorney General's office, Josh worked in the United States Senate for two years. He taught high school English and economics in Zimbabwe for two years after attending Dartmouth College, and worked with the Self-Help Credit Union in Durham after graduating from Harvard Law School and Harvard Kennedy School of Government. More recently, Josh served as an adjunct faculty member at Campbell Law School and is now of counsel to the law firm Smith Moore Leatherwood. Josh and his wife Anna Harris Stein have three children, all of whom are in the Wake County Public Schools.

Joel Rosch is a senior research scholar at the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University. He has a PhD in political science and has taught courses and done research on a wide variety of issues related to children. He developed an interest in child policy while representing law enforcement on both the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force and the North Carolina Child Death Review Team. He has worked in a variety of capacities with almost all of North Carolina's child serving agencies.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David L. Kirp, James D. Marver Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, is a former newspaper editor and policy consultant as well as an academic. In his seventeen books and scores of articles in both the popular press and scholarly journals he has tackled some of America's biggest social problems, including affordable housing, access to health, gender discrimination and AIDS. His main focus has been on education and children's policy, from cradle to college and career. His latest book, *Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for American Education*, was named the winner of the 2013 American Educational Research Association's Outstanding Book Award and has garnered endorsements across the political spectrum. It chronicles how a poor urban school district (Union City, New Jersey) has transported Latino immigrant children, many of them undocumented, into the education mainstream: 90 percent of those youngsters are graduating from high school and 75 percent are going to college. It takes the reader from a third grade classroom to the administrative headquarters, where the crucial if undramatic system-building gets done, and the potent politics of the community. The book also shows how the lessons from this school district can be applied nationwide. As with his other writing, *Improbable Scholars* is aimed at a broad audience as well as policy-makers and practitioners.

Edward Fiske was the education editor of the New York Times during the 1970s and 1980s and is now an education writer and consultant. Together with his wife, Helen Ladd, he has written books about education policy in New Zealand and in South Africa and articles about school finance in the Netherlands. In 2012, at the behest of William Harrison, the then Chairman of the State Board of Education, they wrote a vision statement for public education in North Carolina.

PANEL I: EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Minnie Forte-Brown, first elected in 2004, Minnie served as chair of the Durham Public Schools Board of Education from 2006 to 2012 and now serves as vice chair. Under her leadership, the DPS Board of Education participated in Reform Governance in Action training, a two-year program of the Center for Reform of School Systems. A Durham native, she attended Durham Public Schools and graduated from Hillside High School. Forte-Brown holds a bachelor's degree in speech and English from Saint Augustine's College and a master's of education degree in speech pathology and audiology from North Carolina Central University. She also pursued doctoral studies at Howard University in Theory and Rhetoric in the School of Communication.

Nora Carr is chief of staff for Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the 2013-14 president of the National School Public Relations Association. GCS is the third largest school district in North Carolina, with 10,000 employees serving more than 72,300 students at 126 schools. Carr also serves as a contributing editor on communications for the American School Board Journal. In 2008, Carr was inducted into the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA's) College of Fellows. In 2010, Carr received the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)'s Presidents Award, the group's highest honor. Carr has won more than 150 state and national awards, including six Gold Medallions from NSPRA for effective, large-scale PR and marketing campaigns.

Tony Habit is founding president of the NC New Schools Project, a \$60 million private-public venture to transform secondary education in North Carolina. He is an experienced leader for the development of school reform and innovation strategies with government, higher education, and the private sector. Tony partnered with Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education, colleges and universities and others to create the largest network of early college high schools in the nation. Under Tony's leadership, North Carolina's early colleges were named by the Harvard Kennedy School of Government as an "Innovation in American Government" award recipient. Tony has traveled extensively to learn about school innovation in other countries. In 2000 he was named an Eisenhower Fellow to travel to Australia and New Zealand to study market competition and school quality and the use of technology to enhance teaching. Tony earned a doctorate in educational administration from Columbia University, Teachers College in New York.



David Reese is President and CEO, East Durham Children’s Initiative. The foundation of his work has been to facilitate positive change in the lives of our most vulnerable community members, create systems that move families out of poverty and promote diverse community settings that recognize members for their individual gifts and attributes. David previously served as the Chief Operating Officer for Food Recovery and Distribution at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, as well as the Director of Resource Development and Crisis Intervention Programs for Urban Ministries of Wake County. In 2006, he was recognized as one of the Triangle Business Journal’s top “40 under 40” business leaders and received the Triangle United Way Agency Speaker of the Year Award. David is the Co-Chair for Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Education Chair for the North East Central Durham Leadership Council and Chair of the United Way of the Greater Triangle’s Durham Executive Council. David has a Master’s degree in Business Administration.

PANEL II: ADEQUATE SCHOOL FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Mike Ward is president of The MEWs Educational Consulting, Inc. and serves as a consultant to state and local education leaders on matters related to leadership, school improvement, strategic planning, and assessment. From 1997 to 2004, Mike served two terms as State Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina. Mike is past-President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, whose members include state superintendents and education commissioners from across the country.

Ricky Lopes has served as Associate Superintendent of Cumberland County Schools since 1990. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from East Carolina University and is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in North Carolina. He is past president and member of the North Carolina Association of School Business Officials, as well as past president and member of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accounts, and past Director for the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials (SASBO). Ricky was the multi-year recipient of the Award for Financial Excellence in Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International. He also received the Public Schools of North Carolina Recognition of Achievement Award.

Keith Poston is President and Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Before joining the Public School Forum in January 2014, Keith was Senior Director of Community Investment for Time Warner Cable where he led strategic philanthropy and community engagement for the company’s East Coast operations. In that role he was responsible for developing and implementing programs to promote Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) education as part of the company’s primary philanthropic initiative Connect a Million Minds. Prior to that he served as Director of Communications for Time Warner Cable’s largest operating area in the Carolinas. In that role he developed more than a dozen new regional and statewide partnerships to promote STEM education including initiatives with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, NC Science Festival, NC Science & Engineering Fair, Morehead Planetarium & Science Center and NC Science Olympiad. Keith is a Leadership North Carolina graduate and received the “40 under 40” Leadership Award in 2004 from the Triangle Business Journal. Keith received his bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Philip Price is Chief Financial Officer for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Philip has been the Chief Financial Officer with the Department of Public Instruction since 2002. The agency Technology Services operations were transferred to his area in 2011. He joined the Department in 1978 and worked in various capacities within the accounting operations including Director of School Business until December 1999. In December 1999, Philip left the Department of Public Instruction to join the Fiscal Research staff of the North Carolina General Assembly where he continued to concentrate on public schools. Mr. Price graduated from North Carolina State University in 1978 with a degree in Accounting and a degree in Economics.



PANEL III: HIGH QUALITY TEACHING ENVIRONMENTS

Mark Jewell is a 26-year veteran educator. During his tenure he was honored to receive Teacher of the Year at Oak Hill Elementary and Murphey Traditional Academy. Mark is a respected voice on public education policy, and a champion for all stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels. Mark is the Past President of the Guilford County Association of Educators, and served on the Board of Directors for both the North Carolina Association of Educators and the National Education Association. In April 2012, Mark was elected as the NCAE Vice President, representing 60,000 educators and other public school employees. Mark received both his Bachelor and Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Marshall University.

Suzette Acree is a National Board Certified teacher at Lacy Elementary in Wake County. She has taught second grade at Lacy for eight years, serving as grade chair for three years and on the Response to Intervention committee for two years. She helped to organize the teacher Walk-In held at Lacy and spoke at the Aim Higher North Carolina assembly in February. She and her husband, Chris Acree, have three children: a daughter at Appalachian State, a son at East Carolina University, and a daughter at Martin Middle School. Suzette is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Alesha Daughtrey leads Partnerships and Professional Learning at the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ), a national nonprofit organization based in Carrboro, North Carolina. Alesha helps teachers develop each another's capacity as leaders, and she helps non-teachers understand why that's so important to our students and schools. She leads CTQ's efforts to support teachers' learning and growth as leaders of and advocates for their profession. In addition to coordinating virtual learning opportunities for teachers throughout the CTQ network, she provides direct support to teams of teacher leaders in Florida. Before coming to CTQ, Alesha spent nearly a decade in the Washington, DC area, where she worked in policy advocacy and analysis, community organizing, training, and philanthropy. She holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from Duke University.

Karyn Dickerson, is the 2013-2014 North Carolina Teacher of the Year and a National Board Certified English Teacher at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC. She has taught English in grades 9-12, including recovery, inclusion, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate classes. Outside of her classroom, she has served on Grimsley's Leadership Team, mentored English teacher interns from local universities, and coached the Grimsley Women's Varsity Tennis Team to win the NCHSAA 4-A State Championship in 2011. She is also an English Methods Instructor at Guilford College. Karyn graduated from UNC-CH with a B.A. with Honors and Highest Distinction in English and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She also graduated with a M. Phil with Distinction in Romanticism and Forms of Modernity from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, where she was a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar.

Helen F. Ladd is the Edgar Thompson Professor of Public Policy Studies and Professor of Economics at Duke University. Most of her current research focuses on topics in education policy including school accountability, parental choice and market-based reforms, charter schools, school finance, and teacher labor markets. With colleagues at Duke she has explored the relationship between teacher credentials and student test scores, the effects of accelerating algebra, school segregation, and the effects of early childhood initiatives. She is co-editor of *The Handbook of Research on Educational Finance and Policy* (Routledge, 2008) and is the co-author of books on school choice in New Zealand and school reform in post-apartheid South Africa. She is a past president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and a member of the National Academy of Education.