

**President's Report**  
**NC Pre-K Committee and Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Charles Morris Room**  
Thursday, August 21, 2025

**A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates**

**1. NCPC**

- Special Stories feature the Parents for Higher Education program at FTCC.
- Our contract with NCPC has been executed for FY26.
- NCPC continues collaborative discussions regarding the State CCR&R RFP. The RFP has not been released at this point.
- NCPC's Public Policy Update for July 30<sup>th</sup> is attached.
- PFC held the mandatory DSP (Direct Service Provider) meeting on August 20. Programmatic and fiscal requirements were reviewed with all providers as the new fiscal year starts.

**2. DCDEE**

- **Region 5** contract amendments are in process. We have received our amendment for CORE. Budgets have decreased for the special projects (HSB and B3QI), and we are in the process of finalizing budgets. RFPs for these activities have been delayed until late fall.
- **Our NC Pre-K contract has been executed.** The July FSR for administrative services and the request for the advance for direct services have been submitted.
- In order to follow federal rules regarding the need to bid out funded programs every few years, the contract for the **AWARD\$ Plus Program will end in January 2026, and no further supplements will be issued through this specific program.** This program provided supplements to infant and toddler teachers (similar to the WAGE\$ program). DCDEE is expected to start an alternative supplement program shortly after AWARD\$ Plus ends. We do not know the details for this new program, but will pass along any information as more is known. PFC funds WAGE\$ supplements locally with Smart Start funding.

**3. State Level**

- Both the House and Senate have adjourned and will return on August 26-28. Lawmakers could take up votes on a state budget (if they can agree on the details of one), veto overrides, election law changes, and a few other matters.
- The Adjournment Resolution has a series of mini-budgets through April 7. The 2026 Short Session will then begin on April 21, 2026.
- For details of the session thus far and federal updates, refer to the NC Center for Nonprofits' [August 15 Public Policy updates](#).
- NC Child has just released the [2025 Child Care Finance Report](#) covering the financial realities of operating a child care business in NC.

**4. Federal Level**

- We continue to monitor changing policies and updates and stay in close contact with our grant funders.
- The NC Center for Nonprofits update covered Executive Order 14332, which makes significant changes in the process by which federal agencies award, oversee, and terminate federal grants, including grants to nonprofits.

## 5. Local Level

- The quarterly collaborative meeting between DSS, the Health Department, and PFC will be held on August 22nd at 9:00 a.m.
- We continue to be available to present at the Joint City and County Liaison Committee to provide information about child care access and affordability. Brenda Jackson, DSS Director and PFC Board Member, is coordinating this presentation. The date is TBD.

## B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- Cumberland County Commissioners voted in June to include our request for \$300,000 to support the Family Connects program in their budget. The contract is in development.
- City of Fayetteville CDBG Grant for Building Renovations—The shop drawings received final approval, and materials were to be ordered last week. Based on the projected date for delivery of materials, construction is anticipated to begin in early November.
- The City of Fayetteville ARPA: The Workforce Development cohort recruited 6 participants. TB tests and most criminal background checks are complete. The first reimbursement for Family Connects visits was received in June.
- Grant requests are being submitted to the Cannon Foundation and Golden *LEAF* for capital funding or potential loan repayment for Phase III of the Building project.

## C. Staff Updates

- **NC Pre-K Program Specialist and Early Literacy and Play Coordinator – now recruiting.** If you are interested in or would like to refer a candidate for these full-time positions, please contact Anthony Ramos ([aramos@ccpfc.org](mailto:aramos@ccpfc.org)) for more information. We are evaluating other positions and will be posting those in the near future.
- **Farewell to Sharon Moyer, Community Engagement Administrator.** Sharon came to the Partnership from the Fayetteville Observer with many years in the newspaper world. She will return to this arena, taking a position with The Assembly as Director of Regional Philanthropy and Partnerships. Sharon has been deeply connected to our organization since its early days, having served as a Direct Service Provider, volunteer, committee member, and board member before joining our staff in 2017. As Community Engagement Administrator, she has contributed significantly to our community outreach efforts and stakeholder relationships. We are grateful for her long-standing dedication and the positive impact she has made across multiple roles within our organization and in the community. Her last day with PFC will be August 26. We will be having Sharon's send-off immediately following the Board Meeting. Please join us if you can; we wish Sharon success in her new endeavor.
- **Daniele Malvesti-Petti** will be the Interim Community Engagement Administrator while we review job descriptions and post the position. We thank Daniele for her ongoing commitment to PFC and knowledge of the department's inner workings.
- **The Family Connects Program** will report directly to Mary Sonnenberg during the transition.
- **Farewell to Angela Williams, Case Worker for NC Pre-K.** Angela has been an integral part of the NC Pre-K team, supporting families as they apply for NC Pre-K, including sharing additional resources with them. In addition, she was right there in the weeds as we implemented the SchoolMint platform for application. During her time with PFC, Angela completed her Master's Degree in Social Work. We wish her well as she starts the next journey in her professional life as a Social Worker, fulfilling her dream when she started her graduate work. Her last day will be August 29. We will be celebrating her service on August 27 – please join us if you are able.

## D. Events/Recognitions

- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled – Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are still being accepted.** Please share the URL: [LetsGetEnrolled.com](https://www.letsgetenrolled.com). We still have spaces available in our private child care NC Pre-K sites.

- **2025 Community Choice Awards in Fayetteville** – We made it to the TOP Three for Best Nonprofit. Keep your fingers crossed! Keep your eyes on Social Media. We will announce the result at the Board Meeting.
- **The Chamber’s State of the Community luncheon** is being held at the Crown on August 26. PFC will be attending the event.
- **Little Land on the Farm**—We will once again be involved in the County Fair from August 30 to September 9, 2025. We will need volunteers. If you are interested, contact Daniele Malvesti Petti at [dmalvesti@ccpfc.org](mailto:dmalvesti@ccpfc.org). The ribbon cutting for the Fair will be on August 29 at 4:30 p.m.
- **September will be Smart Start Month across the state.** We are integrating the Annual **Kindness Awards** into the month to highlight the supporters from our community. This year, we are reimagining how we celebrate compassion, generosity, and the everyday heroes among us. Each recipient will be honored individually, in person, at a location of their choosing, whether it be their workplace, home, or another meaningful space. A Partnership Board Member and the President will personally present each award at their chosen location. In addition, all honorees will be invited to join us at the Executive Committee Meeting on September 26 to be recognized by the Board. *Please let Daniele Malvesti Petti ([dmalvesti@ccpfc.org](mailto:dmalvesti@ccpfc.org)) know if you will do one of the individual presentations.*
- **Grilled Cheese Festival**—Save the date for November 15, 2025, at Dirtbag Ales. We are excited about this new event. Ticket, vendor, and sponsorship information is available at [ccpfc.org/cheesy](http://ccpfc.org/cheesy). Please share our event on social media AND purchase tickets!
- **Little Land 2026 – Save the date for March 14, 2026.** More details to come.

### Parents for Higher Education at FTCC:

#### Story 1

I'm incredibly grateful for the Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) program at my college, FTCC, which has been a true lifeline for me as a second-year nursing student and a mother of two young children. Balancing the demands of nursing school while raising a 4-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter is challenging, and without the support of PFHE, I wouldn't be able to afford the daycare expenses that allow me to fully focus on my studies. Knowing that my children are safe and well cared for at daycare gives me the peace of mind I need to stay committed to my dream of becoming a nurse. From the moment I applied to the program at the start of nursing school, I felt supported. Being accepted right away was a huge relief, as I knew I could continue my education without the financial burden of childcare weighing on me. The program coordinator, Miss Dixie, has been incredibly helpful, guiding me through each step and ensuring all paperwork and requirements are taken care of. This support has lifted a weight off my shoulders and allowed me to concentrate on my studies and clinical work. PFHE's assistance goes beyond financial support, it gives me the confidence that my children and I have a community of people cheering us on. I'm deeply grateful for this program and the opportunities it provides, and I look forward to using my education to give back to my community in the same meaningful way. Without PFHE, fulfilling my dream of becoming a nurse would have been far more difficult, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of such a caring and supportive program.

#### Story 2

I am a veteran and a single parent. When I first started college, I was juggling a full-time job, paying for daycare out of pocket, and trying to be a full-time student. The weight of these responsibilities took a toll on me, my grades suffered, and I found it difficult to focus on my studies the way I wanted to. Navigating college for the first time, learning how to use Blackboard, and adjusting to academic life while balancing work and parenting felt overwhelming. On top of that, I was managing my mental health, dealing with anxiety and depression from my military service, as well as postpartum depression after having my child. It was an incredibly challenging period in my life.

Returning to school was a decision I made to create a better future for both myself and my child, but without the right support, I was struggling. That's when I learned about the Parents for Higher Education Program, a resource designed to assist college students who are also parents by providing grants to help cover daycare expenses. Once I received this grant, everything changed. I was able to reduce my work hours, focus more on my academic studies, and raise my GPA. Most importantly, I had more time to be present with my child, not just dropping her off and picking her up from daycare, but actually engaging with her and making meaningful memories together. Beyond financial assistance, the program has provided me with a strong support system. I found a community of parents who understand the unique challenges I face, and we uplift each other. The program also offers valuable resources, such as guest speakers who provide guidance on parenting, child nutrition, and personal development. It connects us with community events and tools to help us grow, both as students and as parents. Thanks to this program, I have been able to show up for myself in ways I couldn't before. I've regained control over my academic journey, improved my well-being, and become a more present and engaged parent. This program has truly been life-changing, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities it has provided.

## Public Policy Updates

7/30/2025

State legislators returned to Raleigh this week to override legislation vetoed by Governor Stein. All fourteen (14) bills vetoed by the Governor were overridden. State Legislators also passed a mini budget or budget conference report. House Bill 125, *Continuing Budget Operations*, will now be sent to Governor Stein for review and signature. While budget negotiations are ongoing through the Budget Conference Committee, the 2025 Appropriations Act is still pending.

A second General Assembly Appointments bill was also enacted, Session Law 2025-2026, extending Tembila Covington's appointment on the NC Partnership for Children's Board until December 31, 2027.

### Vetoed Bills Not Overridden by the House (yet):

- **SB 50** – *Freedom to Carry NC*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 153** – *NC Border Protection Act*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 227** – *Eliminate DEI in Public Education*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 558** – *Eliminate DEI in Public Higher Education*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **HB 96** – *Expedite Removal of Unauthorized Persons*→ Placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **HB 171** – *Equality in State Agencies / Prohibition on DEI*→ Placed on House calendar for 8/26/25

### Bills Becoming Law (Senate and House Overrides):

- **HB 193** – *Firearm Law Revision*→ Session Law 2025-81
- **HB 318** – *The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act*→ Session Law 2025-85
- **HB 402** – *Limit Rules with Substantial Financial Cost*→ Session Law 2025-82
- **HB 805** – *Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Women and Minors*→ Session Law 2025-84
- **SB 266** – *The Power Bill Reduction Act*→ Session Law 2025-78
- **SB 416** – *Personal Privacy Protection Act*→ Session Law 2025-79
- **SB 254** – *Charter School Changes*→ Session Law 2025-80
- **HB 549** – *Clarify Powers of State Auditor*→ Session Law 2025-83

Both the House and Senate have adjourned and will return on August 26, 2025, in accordance with the adjournment resolution: [S772v3.pdf](#)