

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Ryan Allis** is founder and CEO of Broadwick Corp., maker of the electronic marketing communications software IntelliContact. As CEO he has managed the company from its start in July 2003 to its current size with 35 employees and more than 6,000 customers. He is an international speaker on entrepreneurship, multi-channel e-marketing and search engine optimization. In 2005 Business Week named him one of its Top 25 Entrepreneurs Under 25. He has been featured on ABC News and in Investors' Business Daily, the Daily Times of India and Entrepreneur Magazine.



**June Atkinson**, a former business education teacher, was elected state superintendent of public instruction in November 2004. Prior to her election, she worked for the department for 28 years as chief consultant and director in the areas of business education, career and technical education, and instructional services. She is a past president of the National Business Education Association, the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium and the Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools that Work organization.



**John W. Bardo** has served as chancellor of Western Carolina University since 1995. He chairs the Educational and Research Consortium of the Western Carolinas and serves on the boards of MCNC and e-NC. With another researcher, Bardo recently completed a manuscript on the connections between higher education and economic competitiveness in a global economy. He also is interested in economic development and the role of technology in education. He has received a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award for research in Australia and two NATO grants for research in Turkey.



**Marc Basnight**, president pro tem of the N.C. Senate, is the longest-serving legislative leader in state history, having held his post since 1993. He is in his 12th term as a senator representing eight counties in northeastern North Carolina. He has championed key pieces of legislation relating to education, economic development, the environment and mental health, earning him citations such as 2003 Conservation Legislator of the Year from the N.C. Land Trust Council and the 2002 Covenant with North Carolina's Children Award.



**Jim Blasingame** is creator and host of The Small Business Advocate Show, a radio/Internet talk program that features interviews with small business experts from around the world. Fortune Small Business magazine cites him as one of the 30 most influential people in America representing small business interests. The U.S. Small Business Administration recognized him as the 2002 Small Business Journalist of the Year.



**Leslie Boney III** is associate vice president for economic development research, policy and planning of the University of North Carolina system. He provides key support staff to the university president on economic development issues and coordinates efforts to enhance entrepreneurship on university campuses and throughout the state. He previously served as senior associate with MDC Inc. and as executive director of policy, research and strategic planning for the N.C. Department of Commerce. He sits on the Southern Growth Policies Board and the N.C. Food Bank Advisory Council.



**Erskine Bowles** took office as president of the 16-campus University of North Carolina Jan. 1, 2006. He is a former investment banker who served as director of the U.S. Small Business Administration from 1994 to 1995 and as White House chief of staff for President Bill Clinton from 1996 to 1998. For his home state of North Carolina, he helped found Dogwood Equity, chaired the Rural Prosperity Task Force and served as a trustee of the Golden LEAF Foundation. He serves on the boards of General Motors, Morgan Stanley, Cousins Properties and N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.



**Mary Cantando**, an author, speaker and columnist, focuses on helping women grow their businesses, with special emphasis on how to close the big deal and develop new revenue streams. Earlier this year her company, Cantando & Associates, was named Women's Business Enterprise of the Year by the Women's Business Enterprise Council Southeast. A Raleigh resident, she serves on the national board of the Women Presidents' Organization and has served as an envoy of the U.S. State Department in helping women around the world start and grow businesses.



**Dale Carroll** is president and CEO of AdvantageWest, the economic development commission for 23 counties in western North Carolina. Under Carroll's leadership over the past decade, AdvantageWest has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and Entrepreneur magazine. Before coming to AdvantageWest in 1997, Carroll spent 10 years with Carolina Power & Light Company (now Progress Energy). He serves on the advisory committee for biotechnology in western North Carolina.



**Lalie Cobb-Kornegay** is associate director of the Small Business Center of Wayne Community College. Before taking this position, she managed small business programs for national corporations and provided management and technical assistance for business development organizations funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce. She also has held managerial positions in several small businesses and led regional workshops.



**Scott Daugherty** serves as executive director of the Small Business and Technology Development Center, a business development service of the University of North Carolina system. Prior to joining UNC in 1984, he was a vice president and deputy general counsel of a large quasi-public financing agency in Washington, D.C. He has served as a consultant to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank, the Ford Foundation and the U.S. Small Business Administration. He also has managed two regional economic development organizations and a small business investment company.



**Joe Hackney**, newly elected speaker of the state House of Representatives, is currently serving in his 14th term in the House, representing Chatham, Orange, and Moore counties. His legislative service has resulted in awards from such groups as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, North Carolina Citizen Action, the N.C. Wildlife Federation and Child Care Services Association. His law firm, Epting & Hackney, is based in Chapel Hill. Hackney also operates the family beef cattle farm in Chatham County with his brother.



**Marty E. Hackney** is director of East Carolina University's Entrepreneurial Initiative. She co-founded and administers the Eastern North Carolina Investor Network and is assisting two other communities in starting angel networks. She created ECU's Innov8r Series, which educates entrepreneurs on commercialization stages. She started the first video retail store in eastern North Carolina and assisted in the start up of the first manufacturer of tinted soft contact lenses in Raleigh. She serves on the advisory committee for biotechnology in eastern North Carolina.



**Billy Ray Hall** is the founding president of the 20-year-old Rural Economic Development Center. He previously served as policy director and deputy secretary for the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and as chief economist for the Office of State Planning. Gov. Jim Hunt assigned him as director of the redevelopment and disaster recovery effort for North Carolina after Hurricanes Fran and Floyd.



**Lenna Hobson** is co-owner of RagApple Lassie Vineyards and Winery in Yadkin County. She and her husband, Frank Hobson Jr., developed the enterprise as they moved his family's farm away from a dependence on tobacco. Since the first grapes were planted in 2000, RagApple Lassie has won numerous awards for its wines and was a finalist in the Wine Appreciation Guild of San Francisco's competition for the best new winery in the United States. Hobson served seven years on the Elkin board of education and is a former president of the Upper Yadkin Valley Habitat for Humanity.



**Jose Isasi** is CEO of the Que Pasa media network, which includes three Spanish-language newspapers and seven radio stations in central North Carolina and is the largest Hispanic communications company between Washington and Atlanta. He also is chairman of the board of Makin' It Work--Pronto! a marketing and communications firm helping companies around the world communicate effectively with Hispanic consumers. Born in Cuba, Isasi has lived in the United States for 40 years and in North Carolina for 30.



**Patrick Johnson**, a partner in the law firm of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard, represents businesses, investors and entrepreneurs in merger and acquisition, securities and commercial transactions. Before joining the firm, he was a lawyer with Jones Day and Dewey Ballantine in New York and an investment banker. Johnson has been elected to the council of the N.C. Bar Association's Business Law Section and is chair of the steering committee for N.C. LEAP, a Bar Association program that facilitates pro bono legal services to low-wealth entrepreneurs.

**Chris Jones** is president of Moulding Solutions Inc., a manufacturer of moldings, trims and transition pieces for hard surface flooring. He launched the company in 2001 after obtaining patents for his proprietary installation systems. The company sells to several of the industry's top distributor/wholesalers and reports an annual sales growth of more than 50 percent. Before starting the company, Jones had worked in nearly every phase of the floor covering industry, including management in the retail and wholesale sectors



**Larry Keen** serves as the N.C. Community College System's vice president for economic and workforce development, with responsibility for industry training programs, continuing education, BioNetwork, the Small Business Center Network, career readiness certification and workforce initiatives. Before coming to North Carolina, he worked in the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. He is a master trainer certified in a number of corporate training programs.



**Valeria Lee** is president of the Golden LEAF Foundation and vice-chair of the Rural Center's board of directors. She serves on the board of Branch Banking and Trust and is a past member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, a former trustee of North Carolina Central University and former board member of the N.C. Partnership for Children. Before joining Golden LEAF, she served as program officer for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem for 15 years.



**Donna Lowry**, a registered nurse, and her husband, Charles, opened Caring Touch Home Health Care, Inc., four years ago in her hometown of Pembroke. The business has grown more than 300 percent in the last 18 months alone and is one of the fastest-growing home health care businesses in the state. UNC-Pembroke named Lowry Entrepreneur of the Year in 2005. Before returning to school to study nursing in the late '90s, Lowry worked as a home décor consultant. Her ultimate goal, she says, is to become a community-based philanthropist.



**James L. Luther, Jr.**, is CEO of Landmark Industries, an Asheboro company specializing in manufacturing assembly work. He previously served as president of Invictus Development Corp., which specializes in small business consulting and entrepreneurial development, and as an advanced systems analyst for 3M Corp. He has taught courses and seminars in marketing, sales and business administration at Randolph Community College.



**Gloria Nance-Sims** is director of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance, overseeing the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, the Main Street Program and the Community Planning Program. Previously, she administered the department's CDBG Program and led planning and community assistance programs in High Point and Greensboro. She is active in the American Planning Association, the BB&T Community Reinvestment Act Steering Committee and the Council on State Community Development Agencies.



**Sheila Hale Ogle** is CEO of MRPP Inc., a full-service media agency, and of Integrated Clinical Trial Services, a company she helped found with others in the health-care marketing industry. She also recently renovated a 1920s mansion in Cary as an event facility. In 1999, the U.S. Small Business Administration named her North Carolina's Small Business Person of the Year, and she has been recognized as one of the Triangle's 25 most influential businesswomen. Before launching her own business, she spent 20 years with the advertising firm Howard, Merrell & Partners.



**Jane Smith Patterson** is executive director of the e-NC Authority, which promotes affordable, high-speed Internet access throughout North Carolina. During Gov. Jim Hunt's first two terms, she served as state secretary of administration and led development of nation's first state-level integrated information technology services program. She also has served as the governor's senior adviser for science and technology, vice president of ITT Corp.'s Network Systems Group and interim vice chancellor for UNC-Wilmington. She sits on the board of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.



**Beverly Perdue**, North Carolina's lieutenant governor since 2001, previously represented Craven County for 14 years in the state House and Senate. As lieutenant governor, she presides over the Senate and serves on numerous boards that shape state policies in economic development, health care, education and technology. She chairs the State Health and Wellness Trust Fund and led efforts to protect North Carolina's military bases during the Defense Department's base realignment and closure process. The North Carolina Association of Educators has presented her with its President's Award and Leadership Award for her work in education.





**David Price** represents North Carolina's Fourth Congressional District, including the Raleigh, Cary, Durham and Chapel Hill area, in the U.S. House of Representatives. He serves on the House Appropriations Committee and chairs its homeland security subcommittee. A recognized leader in foreign policy, he also is known for his support for education, accessible health care, affordable housing, clean air and water, and improved transportation alternatives. Before his first election to Congress in 1987, he was a professor of political science and public policy at Duke University.



**Horace Carroll Robertson** of Cary is secretary-treasurer and past president of the National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education. He had a long career working in North Carolina public schools as a vocational teacher and consultant in career-technical education, the curriculum that teaches entrepreneurship and has advised school systems in North Carolina, Louisiana and New Jersey on performance and curriculum improvement. In 1991, Robertson received the highest meritorious service award from the Marketing Education Association in America.



**Cleveland Simpson** has held the post of assistant secretary for community development in the N.C. Department of Commerce since 2000. In 1988 he retired as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force after 26 years of service. His tours included stints at the Pentagon, where he was a defense systems analyst, and in Korea. After returning to his native Pender County, he worked with GlenMar Technical Services in Benson and served on the Pender Board of Commissioners for six years. He currently sits on the Rural Center's board of directors.



**Malinda Todd**, Assistant Director of North Carolina REAL has worked with microentrepreneurs and small business service providers for several years. Ms Todd has designed and implemented professional development trainings, and provided one-on-one assistance for small business service providers. Her primary responsibilities at NC REAL are reaching out to new facilitators and providing support, training, and networking opportunities for current REAL facilitators. She has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Latin American Studies and master's degree in Public Administration both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Bryan Toney**, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Appalachian State University, is the founder and former CEO of Information Management Inc., a custom software development and systems integration firm based on Atlanta. At ASU he has developed the annual entrepreneurship summit, a student business idea contest called "Pitch Your Idea in 90 Seconds" and entrepreneurship courses in which Appalachian students work with peers overseas. His international initiatives involve Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Spain and Belgium.



**Hope Williams** is president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the statewide advocacy and public policy organization for 36 private institutions. She serves on the governor's Education Cabinet, chairs the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities State Executives and sits on the boards of the College Foundation and the Public School Forum of North Carolina. Business Leader Magazine named her Woman Extraordinaire in 2005, and she was cited as the 1999 Distinguished Woman of North Carolina in Education.



**Patrick Woodie** is vice president of business and natural resource development for the Rural Economic Development Center. A native of Alleghany County, he previously worked as executive director of the New River Community Partners, Blue Ridge Business Development Center and Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce. He received the Rural Center's Outstanding Rural Leader award in 2005 and the Northwest Vision Award from the Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments in 2003. He is past chair of New River Cottage Inc. and has served on the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Commission and the North West Advisory Council of AdvantageWest.



**James J. Zuiches** is vice chancellor for extension, engagement and economic development at N.C. State University. His division includes the Cooperative Extension Service, Industrial Extension Service, Small Business and Technology Development Center and other outreach programs. Prior to joining N.C. State, he served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at Washington State University and as a program office at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He has written more than 70 publications.