

# COATES CONNECTION

## News from the School of Government



## TRANSFORMATION IS LOCAL

### *Launch of* LEAD FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Earlier this year, together with partners, the School of Government launched Lead for North Carolina. The goal of this new program is to recruit the most promising young leaders in the state and provide them with training and placement in two-year paid fellowships in local governments. The ultimate goal is to strengthen public institutions, support local communities, and cultivate a new generation of public service leaders.

Many local governments find themselves addressing increasingly complex issues with few resources. Many are also anticipating staffing difficulties stemming from impending retirements and talent pools that do not necessarily reflect the diversity of their communities. At the same

time, young people often have few opportunities to learn about local government or the many career options it presents.

**The ultimate goal is to strengthen public institutions, support local communities, and cultivate a new generation of public service leaders.**

In its first year, Lead for North Carolina will recruit up to 40 fellows—most of them either native North Carolinians or graduates from UNC system schools—and place them in local governments across the state beginning in September 2019.

Fellows will be placed in small towns and counties, where the challenges are many and the need for young talent and ideas is significant.

At the School of Government, faculty member Kara Millonzi will lead the training for these young fellows before they are placed in different communities.

Are you interested in being a partner community? Learn more at [lead4america.org](http://lead4america.org). If you're interested in supporting the work of Lead for North Carolina, contact Dylan Russell, interim executive director, at [russell@sog.unc.edu](mailto:russell@sog.unc.edu).





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# FROM THE DEAN

As you can imagine, we are joining you and other North Carolinians in coming to grips with the recent devastation that our state has suffered in the wake of Hurricanes Florence and Michael—and understanding our role in how these communities rebuild. As you know too well, local governments are facing more complex challenges than ever before, and natural disasters are setbacks. It's hard to do smart zoning or have efficient courts when you're also trying to recover from a major storm.

Our charge at a time like this is to support and advise—in any way we can—those who need our expertise, with the goal of improving the lives of North Carolinians. Many are hurting and that's why all of us need to step up to help.

We want to be nimble and responsive to our clients and their communities. In this newsletter, you'll read about three ways that we're working to meet our client needs: through a new initiative called Lead for North Carolina, to help increase local governments' capacity long term; through a strengthened partnership with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to increase access for elected officials to leadership training; and through community-based solutions to the opioid epidemic.

As we look toward the future, I hope you'll contribute your ideas on how we can better serve our clients, particularly in times of duress. I'm grateful for your support of the School's work and I hope you'll read more about how we're helping to live out our mission—"to improve the lives of North Carolinians."



Mike Smith, Dean  
UNC School of Government

## JOHN RUBIN TEACHES CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN LONDON



For the fall semester, John Rubin, School faculty member and director of Indigent Defense Education, is teaching and serving as the faculty director for the Honors Carolina study abroad program in London, England.

Rubin wrote in the blog *North Carolina Criminal Law*, "I am thrilled to have this opportunity—not just the chance to live for a short while in this amazing place

but also the ability to step back from my day-to-day criminal law work and take a broader look at the challenges facing our criminal justice system. Getting ready for the fall, I've already been struck by both the similarities and differences between the US and UK systems. I am excited to hear the perspectives of the exceptional UNC students in the program, 25 in all and 16 in my criminal law and justice class. I fully expect they will challenge our assumptions and practices, some venerated, some merely entrenched." Read his reflections at [nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/author/jrubin](https://nccriminallaw.sog.unc.edu/author/jrubin).



## NCACC PARTNERS WITH THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

*Thank you* to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for becoming a founding supporter of the School's Center for Public Leadership and Governance.



NCACC leadership Fred McClure, Kevin Austin, Brenda Howerton, Greg Cox (NACO president), Ronnie Smith, and Larry Phillips at a NCACC board meeting in August 2018.

Photo courtesy of NCACC/Chris Baucom

The Association's financial support of the Center will help underwrite increased training opportunities for locally-elected officials, ensuring county commissioners across the state have access to the School's educational programming.

"NCACC not only recognized the importance of leadership development to the future of our communities, but they have made an investment that will provide tangible support for county leaders far into the future," said Mike Smith, dean of the School.

The investment made by NCACC is a continuation of the decades-old partnership between the School and the association. Since 2009, NCACC has partnered with the School to provide programming through the *Local Elected Leaders Academy*. LELA

has provided training to newly elected officials through courses such as *Essentials of County Government* and to more tenured leaders through the *Advanced Leadership Corps*.

To learn more about CPLG, visit [cplg.sog.unc.edu](http://cplg.sog.unc.edu).

## A VISIT TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

In January 2018, faculty member Jessica Smith led a group of North Carolina Superior Court judges to Washington, DC. The group attended oral arguments and met with Justice Clarence Thomas, who reflected on judicial selection processes and his personal experiences as a justice. The group also met with U.S. Senator Thom Tillis and was given a private tour of the Capitol.



## TAR HEEL TRAILBLAZER: ROCHELLE D. SMALL-TONEY

On February 3, Carolina Athletics honored Rochelle D. Small-Toney, city manager of Rocky Mount and Carolina MPA alumna, with the Tar Heel Trailblazer award during halftime at a UNC men's basketball game.

Small-Toney was the first African American women's varsity basketball player at UNC-Chapel Hill, playing on the 1977-78 team. The Trailblazer



Photo courtesy of the City of Rocky Mount

award, presented every year during Black History Month, "recognizes individuals who paved the way for success in all aspects of the student-athlete experience, shining a spotlight on pioneers who have made memorable and lasting contributions at UNC and beyond."

A 1981 graduate of the MPA program, Small-Toney has a career in public service that spans more than three decades. She was the first

female and first African-American city manager of Savannah, Georgia. In July 2017, she became the first woman to serve as city manager of Rocky Mount.

"For such a great university as UNC to look back on my past and to select me as a Trailblazer, it's just one of the greatest highlights of my life at this point," Small-Toney said. "I'm extremely proud, as I've always been, to say that I'm a Tar Heel and that I wear my blue very proudly. But to be recognized by the University is just beyond my wildest dreams or imagination."



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## THE FIGHT AGAINST THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

In February 2018, Blue Cross NC announced a \$50 million investment in community health initiatives across North Carolina, including \$390,000 to support the School of Government's work in assisting local governments in addressing the opioid crisis.

ncIMPACT, an initiative of the School, has launched a two-year collaborative learning model that will provide direct support to ten communities interested in policy and practice responses to their local opioid crises. This project will complement health and policy efforts at the state and local levels by working with communities that are ready to implement best practices.

Local governments are the front lines of policy implementation, and the School assists them through training,

advising, and research. "These teams seem extremely committed and well-positioned to address this difficult issue. We're grateful that Blue Cross NC has enabled all of us to learn from each other," said Mike Smith, dean of the School.

A public website will be updated with resources, including lessons learned and other assets collected throughout the two-year program. Learn more at [sog.unc.edu/opioidresponseproject](http://sog.unc.edu/opioidresponseproject).

### Ten Local Government Teams Selected for Opioid Crisis Support

