



### Women’s Equality Day—Celebrating Women’s Rights and Achievements



*The following is a feature from Mary Williams-Stover, Director of the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement*

The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was the single largest democratizing event in American history according to scholar Akhil Reed Amar. After 72 years of advocacy, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment became law, giving women the right to vote! Originating in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848, women’s suffrage, also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, began at the Women’s Rights Convention and ended in August 1920. However, North Carolina was not one of the original 36 states to ratify this amendment.

Why? Although there was a lot of support for suffrage or the right to vote for women, in North Carolina –many state representatives could not agree to recognize women’s suffrage rights. In fact, 63 of the 120 NC House members promised in a signed telegram to the legislators in Tennessee not to ratify on grounds that it would interfere with the sovereignty of North Carolina and other states in the Union.

The vote to ratify in August 10, 1920 failed in the North Carolina legislature dimming the hopes of many who wanted North Carolina to become the 36th state to vote in favor to ratify and make the right for women to vote the law of the land. Tennessee’s legislature voted to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment -- despite North Carolina’s objection, making it the 36<sup>th</sup> state. As a result, the right for women to vote became legal across the U.S. even in North Carolina.

As a state, North Carolina advocated in many ways before the vote in 1920. In 1897 the bill for women’s suffrage was introduced to the state Senate by J.L. Hyatt, a Republican from Yancey County. The bill died after it was referred to the committee on insane asylums.

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### **Equality Day, Cont.**

Today, one of the arguments used to advocate for women's suffrage holds true – **women are well-suited to politics**. Following the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the League of Women Voters advertised to explain ramifications of the right to vote and encouraged women to register to vote in national, state, local and special elections. The advertisement also promoted the fact that women could vote without paying a poll tax. One aspect of the promotional brochure is as true today as it was in 1920, *women will contribute their best to the state and Nation by using their vote for better government*.

In the most recent 2018 election, there were 6.8 million registered voters in North Carolina. 53% of registered voters are women and generally women are the majority in casting ballots in general elections. Women are now the majority of voters in North Carolina.

Women are contributing our best to the state and the Nation. From Senator Elizabeth Dole to Governor Beverly Purdue, we are serving the state and Nation. From Eva Clayton (first African American woman to represent North Carolina in Congress since 1898) to Alma Adams (elected in 2014 to the U.S. House of Representatives making her the 100<sup>th</sup> woman serving in Congress), North Carolina

women are proudly serving to improve America.

On August 26, 2019 – Women's Equality Day— we recognized women who are leading as public servants, from those appointed to boards and commissions by Governor Roy Cooper, to those elected by voters to serve as judges, to members of the cabinet and general government. We acknowledged the 72-year struggle and magnitude of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We must also renew our commitment to exercise the right to vote. Although all women did not receive the right to vote until much later, and North Carolina did not vote to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment until 1971, we must remember the words of Lillian Exum Clement, the first woman to run and

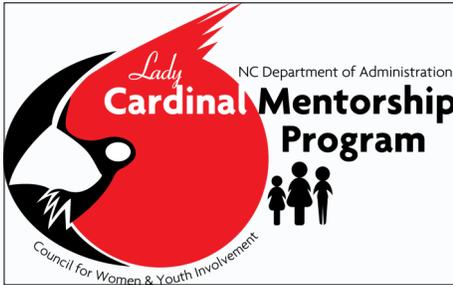
*"I know many years from now there will be many other women in politics, but you have to start a thing." – Lillian Exum Clement, first woman elected to the North Carolina General Assembly and first woman to serve in any state legislature in the southern United States.*

win a seat in the N.C. House of Representatives in 1920.



Justices of NC's Supreme and Appellate Courts, state legislators, members of the NC Council of State, the Governor's Cabinet as well as members of the NC Council for Women Advisory Board convened for a commemorative photo at the State Capitol Building in honor of Women's Equality Day and the 19th Amendment

## Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program Offers High School Girls An Opportunity to Explore STEM Careers in State Government



Ahead of Women's Equality Day on August 26, the NC Department of Administration (DOA)

launched a new mentorship program on July 1 to address gender equity in North Carolina within the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program, established by DOA Secretary Machel Sanders, offers high school girls in North Carolina an opportunity to explore STEM-based careers within state government.

This year, nine local high school students ranging from freshmen to seniors were chosen to participate in the 4-week summer enrichment program. Students shadowed leaders within North Carolina's Cabinet agencies and completed a research project based on Governor Roy Cooper's [Executive Order No. 80](#) that addresses climate change and transition to a clean energy economy in North Carolina.

"My vision for the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program is to create a foundation for young girls to develop leadership skills while learning more about STEM careers within state government," DOA Secretary Sanders said. "Offering such opportunities and training creates a better future for our state, improving both gender equality and our state's economy. It is important that women in STEM-based positions be a model to young girls aspiring to careers in such fields. After all, you cannot be what you cannot see, diversity is strength and inclusion fuels innovation."

The [2018 Status of Women in NC: Employment and Earnings Report](#), released by the DOA Council for Women and Youth Involvement in collaboration with the Institute for Women's Policy Research, shows the growing disparity in employment and earnings among women and

men in North Carolina. If unchanged, the gender wage gap would not begin to close until year 2060. Reducing occupational segregation in fields such as information technology and engineering—both high-growth and high-earning careers—will help improve the status of women in our state, allowing more families to achieve economic security, reduce the number of people in poverty and grow the state's economy.

Data from the Status of Women report underscores Governor Cooper's [NC Job Ready Initiative](#), which advocates for more internships, trainings, and apprenticeships to prepare North Carolinians for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program offers North Carolina's best and brightest high school girls beyond the classroom learning experiences that challenge their problem-solving skills and creativity. On August 1, the program concluded with a presentation at the North Carolina Executive Mansion. Before an audience of family and state government mentors, the mentees showcased their summer research projects on how to make North Carolina a more sustainable state.

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***"This has been an invaluable learning experience for my daughter; one of the best summers she has ever had!" – Belinda Davis, mother of Lady Cardinal participant Taylor Davis***

### **Lady Cardinal, Cont.**

Recommendations included the use of more biodegradable products, modifications to current recycling infrastructure and the preservation of bees. DOA Secretary Sanders and NC Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael Regan ended the event by congratulating the mentees for their work and commitment to working toward a better North Carolina.

For more information on the Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program, visit the [NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement website](#) for details.

***“In the future, I hope to be a psychiatrist focusing on social interactions. I have learned so much from this program! I’ve already begun spreading the word at my school on how great this program is.” – Taylor Davis, Lady Cardinal participant and sophomore at South Garner High School***

### **2019 Lady Cardinal Mentorship Program Student Participants:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Assigned Department</b>
Zora Banks	Junior	Garner Magnet High School	NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Marissa Colbert	Freshman	Cleveland High School	NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Brooke Chow	Senior	Enloe Magnet High School	NC Department of Commerce
Taylor Davis	Sophomore	South Garner High School	NC Department of Administration
Layla Hamilton	Sophomore	Clayton High School	NC Office of State Human Resources
Trinity Garza	Sophomore	Golden Eagle Academy	NC Department of Revenue
Melissa Mavhura	Senior	Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill	NC Department of Public Safety
Katherine Johnston	Senior	East Wake Academy	NC Department of Health and Human Services
Denette Thompson	Sophomore	Clayton High School	NC Department of Transportation



NC Department of Administration

**(Top Row, From Left to Right)** Trinity Garza, Katherine Johnston, Brooke Chow, Zora Banks, and Taylor Davis

**(Bottom Row, From Left to Right)** NC DEQ Secretary Michael Regan, Layla Hamilton, Denette Thompson, Marissa Colbert, and DOA Secretary Machel Sanders

**(Not Pictured)** Melissa Mavhura



## Governor Cooper's Annual School Supply Drive: Thank You For Your Donations!



Governor Roy Cooper's annual school supply drive! On September 12, Secretary Machel

We did it! Thanks to your contributions, the Department of Administration collected more than 10 boxes of supplies for

Sanders will deliver these items, ranging from spiral notebooks to large backpacks, to students at Warsaw Elementary School in Duplin County. Duplin County was one of the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Florence and all 13 of their public schools sustained structural damage. Your contributions will not only help the County of Duplin to continue its recovery efforts from Hurricane Florence, but will help teachers and students thrive this school year. We appreciate your generosity!



## Avoid Becoming a Victim

No one is immune from cyberattacks, but education and awareness are the best ways to avoid becoming a victim. Always keep these tips in mind when using email:

- **Be suspicious of unsolicited emails.** Whether it's a request for donations or just information about the people in your agency, cybercriminals can use details you provide in elaborate scams.
- **Don't hesitate to follow up.** Even if you know and trust the sender, contact them by phone or in person if an email seems out of the ordinary or is a request for money or sensitive information.
- **Think twice.** Links and attachments in suspicious emails could compromise your online security and that of your agency. If there's any doubt, check with the sender first.
- **Pay attention to website URLs.** Malicious websites can look identical to trusted sites, but the URL might use a different spelling or domain (e.g., .com vs. .net).
- **Protect your personal information.** Avoid sending sensitive, personally identifiable information (e.g., Social Security numbers) or passwords in email – regardless of the recipient.



## Countdown to Census 2020



We have less than eight months before Census Day April 1, 2020. To learn more on how you can make NC Count, visit [census.nc.gov](https://census.nc.gov).

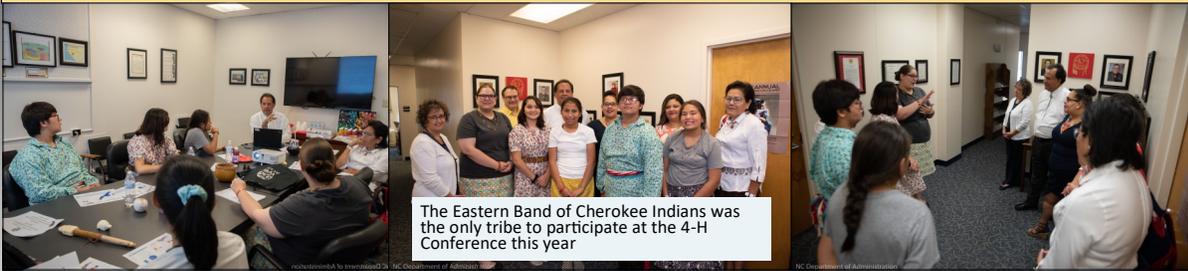
Let's get social! Follow @nccensus to #HelpMakeNCCount



# In Case You Missed It—July & August Snapshots



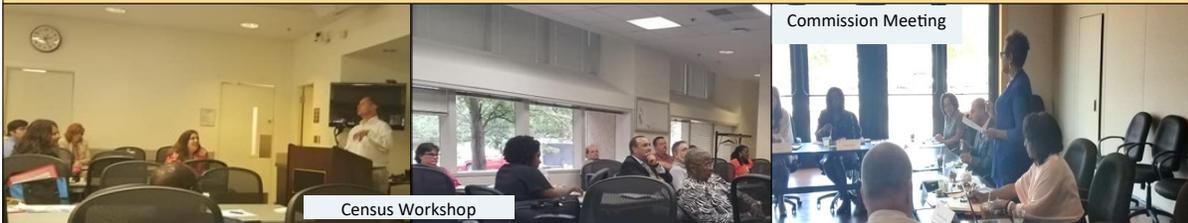
**Commission of Indian Affairs Met with Students from NC Cooperative Extension's 4-H Program, July 22, 2019**



**Secretary Sanders Receives Leadership Award at the Reimagine Diversity & Inclusion Conference, Aug. 7, 2019**



**Charlotte Convenings—Census Business Builder Workshop, Aug. 20, 2019  
and NC Commission on Inclusion Meeting, Aug. 21, 2019**



**19th Amendment Centennial Commemorative Photo Event at the NC State Capitol, Aug. 22, 2019**



**Women's Conference—Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce, Aug. 26, 2019**



## Upcoming Department Events

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Labor Day (September 2)
- [HUB's Minority Enterprise Development Week Events](#)
- Commission of Indian Affairs Quarterly Meeting (September 6)
- License to Give Trust Fund Commission Quarterly Meeting (September 6)
- [She Changed the World: NC Women Breaking Barriers Kick-off Event](#) (September 7)
- School Supply Delivery to Warsaw Elementary School in Duplin County by Secretary Sanders (September 12)
- Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/ Latino Affairs (September 12)
- 10th Anniversary Celebration of HUB's Statewide Uniform Certification Program (September 13)
- HUB's Strategic Purchasing Team Meeting (September 17)
- Hometown Strong Visit—Mitchell, McDowell and Yancey Counties (September 23-25)
- HUB Vendor Orientation Training (September 24)
- Disaster Preparedness Contracting Forum (September 25)
- Monthly Capital Project Coordinators Meeting (September 26)
- Interagency Council Meeting (September 27)
- Internship Council Meeting (September 27)

For additional upcoming events, please visit the [DOA SharePoint site](#) for details.

## Questions, Comments or Suggestions?

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for newsletter content! If you have a comment, story idea, event, employee or division profile you would like to see featured, please send an email to [communications@doa.nc.gov](mailto:communications@doa.nc.gov).