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World-Traveled Historian Takes Helm as South Piedmont's Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Rebecca Berry, whose interest in higher education began as she watched history shows on public television with her newborn son, will start as South Piedmont Community College's Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences on July 1. Her portfolio will encompass the School's three academic departments, the Associate in Arts in a Year program, as well as the School's co-curricular high-impact practices.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Berry to South Piedmont," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Travis Teague. "Dr. Berry's experience, enthusiasm, and energy are an ideal match for our students and service area. She has a vision for our School of Arts and Sciences, vast NC Community College System knowledge, and a clear commitment to student success that are sure to result in great things for South Piedmont."

A native of Searcy, Arkansas, Berry earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Harding University in 1994, but it wasn't until after undergrad that she found her lifelong passion.

"When I was a new mother and stayed at home with my son, Noah, I began watching public television and got really into history programs. I wasn't a great history student when I was in undergraduate school, but during that time in my life, I got really interested in history programs. I was surprised that I enjoyed it so much," she said. "I found myself telling everyone about what I was learning. Over time, I realized that what I loved even more was helping others experience the same interest and excitement, so I pursued a career as a history instructor."

Berry went on to earn her master's in Global History from Arkansas State University and her doctorate in Adult and Community College Education with an emphasis in Community College Leadership from North Carolina State University.

After several years working as an adjunct instructor, Berry was hired as a faculty member of history and humanities at Wake Technical Community College in 2007, subsequently gaining the rank of senior professor. In the years that followed, she held a number of roles at Wake, including Humanities Department head, director of Global Education, program director of the Student Experience Program, and strategic planning lead.

Her new role at South Piedmont allows Berry to put all the various pieces of her life and career to work for the College.

"Much of the work I've done in the realm of strategic planning, high-impact practices, global education, and online learning closely aligns with the ideas of South Piedmont," she said. "It is especially exciting to come to South Piedmont at a time of rapid change. Besides arriving at the same time as the new president and a new vice president (President Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey started on July 1; Teague started in his position in 2024.), the campuses are also undergoing expansive building projects. Everything at South Piedmont seems new and exciting. I'm thrilled to be joining at the onset of so many dynamic changes."

Berry looks forward to finding new ways to serve students and help them reach their goals. She's also excited about the chance to expand the College's global education opportunities.

"That could mean everything from globalizing coursework to creating partnerships with the industries in the area who will accept our graduates. Given the increasingly global nature of the workforce, an emphasis on global education will better help prepare our students to work in diverse international settings," she said.

Outside of work, Berry is an avid traveler herself. Much of her spare time is spent "either planning travel, saving for travel, or actually traveling." But the move to South Piedmont is also an exciting chance for her and her husband, Peter, to explore the region closer to Noah, who now lives in Charlotte.



"South Piedmont feels right on both a personal and professional level," she said. "My career began with an interest in history, but now, I'm excited to be looking to the future, to all the great things I'll be able to contribute to as a member of the South Piedmont family."

SPCC Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Rebecca Berry can be reached at rberry@spcc.edu.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet July 15

The second July meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, July 15 at 6 p.m.

Board meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

N.C. Department of Labor Updates Civil Penalty Structure for Workplace Safety Violations

The North Carolina Department of Labor (NCDOL) has announced updated maximum penalty amounts for occupational safety and health violations, effective July 1, 2025, in accordance with annual adjustments tied to the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI). By law, penalty amounts are adjusted on July 1 of each year.

The new maximum penalty amounts are as follows:
• Serious Violation: \$16,550 • Posting Violation: \$16,550
• Willful Violation: \$165,514 (minimum of \$11,823) • Repeat Violation: \$165,514
• Failure to Abate a Violation (FTA): \$16,550 per day
• Violation involving workers under age 18: \$29,000

The updated penalties now apply to all citations issued on or after July 1, 2025. For more details and the official notice, visit the OSH Standards Information and Activity page on the NCDOL website: labor.nc.gov/standards-information-and-activity.



TIM SCHMALBECK

SPECIAL GUEST:
CORPORATE DIRECTOR
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

WEALTH STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

INFORMATIONAL EVENT

DATE: TUESDAY JULY 15

TIME: 6:30 PM

THE CAMPUS OF HARVEST MINISTRIES
1134 EAST CASWELL STREET
(HIGHWAY 74 BEHIND MCDONALDS)
WADESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA



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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - WIC INCOME GUIDELINES

To be eligible for WIC you must live in North Carolina. If you receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP you automatically meet the income eligibility requirements.

A family may be eligible for WIC based on your household income, even if you do NOT receive Medicaid, Work First Families Assistance, or SNAP.

The following list is income guideline that went into effect June 2, 2025.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| • Family of 1: | monthly income \$2,413 / weekly income \$557 |
| • Family of 2: | monthly income \$3,261 / weekly income \$753 |
| • Family of 3: | monthly income \$4,109 / weekly income \$949 |
| • Family of 4: | monthly income \$4,957 / weekly income \$1,144 |
| • Family of 5: | monthly income \$5,805 / weekly income \$1,340 |
| • Family of 6: | monthly income \$6,653 / weekly income \$1,536 |
| • Family of 7: | monthly income \$7,501 / weekly income \$1,731 |
| • Family of 8: | monthly income \$8,349 / weekly income \$1,927 |

For a family size greater than 8, or income based on Annual, Bi-weekly, or Twice a Month, please call our office at 704-694-9844.

ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

110 Ashe Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170 704-694-9844

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Mon, Tue, Thurs 8:30-5
Wed 8:30-4