

New State Program Offers Mentorship Opportunity to High School Girls Interested in STEM Careers

Program seeks to improve workforce development and gender equity

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 Mabelle 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 for 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 (ncjobready.nc.gov), 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 NC 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. 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:

ncadmin.nc.gov/advocacy/youth-involvement/lady-cardinal-mentorship-program.

About DOA Established in 1957, the Department of Administration acts as the business manager for North Carolina state government. Under the leadership of Secretary Mabelle Sanders since appointed by Governor Roy Cooper in 2017, the department oversees Government Operations and advocacy programs. The department's advocacy programs provide advocacy, assistance and services to diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved.

About CFWYI The North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement (CFWYI) is a division of the North Carolina Department of Administration. The mission of the Council is to advise the Governor, state legislators and state leaders on issues that impact women and youth.

WIC Program Information

The Anson County WIC program provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and community resources to participants. WIC clients now receive an eWIC card.

Packages for children 1 to 5 and for women include benefits for fresh, canned or frozen fruits and vegetables at WIC approved stores. WIC approved yogurt is also available on many food packages.

To be eligible for WIC you must be an infant or child less than five years of age, a woman who is pregnant, breastfeeding, or have given birth within six months.

For more information about WIC or to make an appointment, please call the Anson County Health Department at 704-694-9844, or you can visit the office at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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HMA
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 Sunday August 25th 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Honoring
 Pastor Donnie McClurkin
 Pastor Tim & Brenda Adams
 Pastor Mike Satterfield

****NO REGISTRATION FEE****

Location: 1134 East Caswell St. Wadesboro, NC
 Highway 74 - Wadesboro (Behind Pizza Hut)
 For More Info: 704-695-2879