



June 18th, 2024

CatalyzeNC

Unlocking Tomorrow's Workforce with
Innovation and Immigration

Welcome

Over the last decade, **North Carolina** has become the bedrock of innovation across a number of industries, including agriculture, technology, and education, spurring economic growth and a demand for a robust workforce.

Join North Carolina and national leaders in multifaceted discussions on how addressing our **immigration system** can shape the state's future workforce, drive new economic innovations, spur new technological and academic research and breakthroughs, and bolster agricultural production.

Beatriz Lopez

Deputy Director

Jennifer Pierre

Senior Digital Marketing Manager

Claudia Hernandez

Senior Communications Manager



Catalyze NC

Date: June 18, 2024

Location: Raleigh, North Carolina

Time: 8:30 am - Noon EST

8:30 AM **Morning Registration and Breakfast**

9:30 AM **Welcome by the Immigration Hub's Deputy Director, Beatriz Lopez**

10:00 AM **Fireside Chat: NC STEM Innovators**

STEM workers and entrepreneurs from all backgrounds and across the world have fueled innovations, created jobs, and helped make the United States globally competitive. Immigrants make up almost 24% of STEM workers and, in North Carolina, they make up 17% of workers. A 2022 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that immigrants are responsible for 36 percent of aggregate innovation, much of which is linked to their interactions and contribution to the work of U.S.-born peers. Join Emerson Collective's Ada Sim, Senior Director, Product, Engineering, in discussion on how immigration can bolster North Carolina and the nation's edge on technology.

Participants:

- Ada Sim, Emerson Collective
- Daisy Magnus-Aryitey, Code the Dream

10:20 AM **Break**

10:30 AM **Panel Discussion: NC Economy & Workforce**

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Moderator: Lucille Sherman, Axios

Participants:

- Alejandro Gutierrez-Li, North Carolina State University
- Christopher Chung, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

11:15 AM **Break**

11:25 AM **Fireside Chat: The NC Dream**

More than 24,000 Dreamers call North Carolina their home. Throughout the state, immigrants, who are actively studying to fill vital career and skill needs, represent 21.7% of students enrolled in higher education. This crucial population of young people are expanding the talent pool and eagerly embracing new skill sets to fill the jobs of the future as aspiring students across the globe also seek to gain access to the incredible academic opportunities that North Carolina universities offer. Hear from leaders on how they are creating a path for immigrant youth to become tomorrow's American leaders.

Participants:

- Grant Godwin, North Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Cristian Campo, RISE

11:45 AM **Closing Remarks**

Fireside Chat: NC STEM Innovators



Ada Sim

Senior Director, Technology Product and Programs
Emerson Collective | Washington, D.C.

Ada Sim (She/Her) has a decade of experience in the financial sector, having held diverse roles in corporate finance, investor relations, operations, and technology strategy. After years of volunteering at nonprofits, she started her career in the social sector at DataKind, managing data science products and building the data for a good community. Before joining Emerson Collective, she advised and worked at nonprofits partnering across industries like education and health and human services to leverage data and build products. In her role at Emerson Collective, she focuses on developing innovative products and implementing technology programs. By collaborating closely with subject matter experts, product managers, designers, engineers, and data scientists, she co-creates software solutions that leverage data to provide insights into complex societal challenges. Additionally, she partners with the Technology team to deliver programs that equip individuals and communities to participate in the responsible development and use of technology.



Daisy Magnus-Aryitey

Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director
Code the Dream | Durham, NC

Daisy Magnus-Aryitey (She/Her) serves as Co-Executive Director of Code the Dream, a national tech nonprofit based in Durham, North Carolina. In this role, Daisy has led the strategic expansion of Code the Dream's unique win-win model for advancing inclusive opportunity and inclusive innovation. Prior to joining Code the Dream, Daisy worked as a software developer at Duke University's Office of Information Technology. Daisy was born in Accra, Ghana. Being a Black immigrant woman informs her worldview in substantive ways, and drives her to build scalable systems that will ensure equitable access to education and opportunity for all. Daisy was a Khayrallah Fellow in the Master's in Educational Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has a B.A. from Rutgers University. Daisy lives in Hillsborough, North Carolina with her husband and two brilliant children.

Panel Discussion: NC Economy & Workforce



Lucille Sherman

Reporter

Axios | Raleigh, NC

Lucille Sherman (She/Her) is a reporter for Axios Raleigh, where she primarily covers state politics. She previously worked for GateHouse Media, where she worked on the outlet's national investigations team, and The News & Observer.



Alejandro Gutierrez-Li

Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Agricultural Labor Extension Program at NCSU | Raleigh, NC

Alejandro Gutierrez-Li (He/Him) is an Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics at Washington University in St. Louis. His research lies in the areas of labor economics and applied microeconomics, with an emphasis on economics of immigration and entrepreneurship. His recent work has analyzed the role of home country work experience of immigrants in their labor market performance in the United States, factors affecting Mexico-U.S. migration, the determinants of the farm labor supply, and the economic outcomes of Hispanics, among others. Dr. Gutierrez-Li has lived and worked in different parts of the United States and Latin America and is fluent in English and Spanish.



Christopher Chung

Chief Executive Officer

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina | Raleigh, NC

Christopher Chung (He/Him) is the CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, bringing in more than 25 years of state-level economic development experience to the role. As a public-private partnership, the EDPNC is responsible for a number of economic development functions on behalf of the State of North Carolina, including new business recruitment, existing business support, international trade and export assistance, small business start-up counseling, and tourism, sports, and film promotion. Chris previously held various executive and management responsibilities at the Missouri Partnership and the Ohio Department of Development, now known as JobsOhio. Chris attended The Ohio State University (OSU), graduating Phi Beta Kappa with a double-major in Japanese and economics. He also completed significant coursework towards a Master's in Public Policy and Management. Chris resides in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife Emily and daughters Elizabeth and Caroline.

Fireside Chat: The NC Dream



Grant Godwin

Advisory Board Member

North Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | Raleigh, NC

Grant Godwin (He/Him) retired in 2011 from Martin Marietta Materials after a distinguished career in advanced manufacturing. He began his career in North Carolina state government, working for the state budget office and the Ports Authority. Most recently he is the immediate past board chair of NC Rural Center and is former chair of the NC Community Colleges Foundation. He is a native of Sampson County. Over his career, Grant was awarded a number of state, national and international awards for contributions to new product and industry development and to community leadership and development. In 2021, in recognition of his private and public service dedicated to improving the health and economic well-being of the state's citizens, Grant was awarded the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest gubernatorial award for citizen service.



Cristian Campos

Data Fellow

RISE | Washington D.C.

Cristian Campos (He/Him) is a data scientist currently working as a Data Fellow at RISE, an organization advocating for tuition-free college, where he applies his expertise in data management to support their mission. Born in El Salvador and a proud DACA recipient and Dreamer, Cristian has a deep personal connection to the causes he supports. Previously, he was a facilitator at the Partnership for Southern Equity, where he trained young people and adults on youth advocacy and racial equity. Recently selected as a TheDream.US scholar, Cristian will be completing a data science degree at Dominican University. Today, he continues to volunteer his data skills at various non-profits, enhancing their data analysis, pipelines, and management. Through his work, Cristian strives to combine his passion for technology with a commitment to serving his community.