

# 2026 Undergraduate Research Week



**Reaching New  
Heights...**

*April 13-17, 2026*

**Sponsored by:  
Office of Undergraduate Research & Creativity  
The Center for Teaching, Learning  
& Digital Education**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Welcome to Elizabeth City State University! For more than 130 years, Elizabeth City State University has proudly served as a premiere institution offering a wide variety of academic programs and services, fostering intellectual growth and critical thinking skills inside and outside of the classroom, and providing a nurturing campus environment that supports today's diverse student. We boast about our one-of-a-kind, dedicated and highly-qualified faculty and staff members, who take pride in inspiring and preparing our students to become tomorrow's leaders and to make an impact on the community, the state, and the world.

This is ECSU. **Come to Discover. Leave to Conquer.**

The ECSU family is proud of its legacy and the rich history that has fortified this city and become a beacon for the future of Northeastern region of the state. With 20,000+ alumni and growing partnerships with community and business organizations, we are committed to leading the way in education and innovation, expanding our reach, and improving the economic strength of North Carolina.

With 30 undergraduate degree offerings and four graduate degree programs, research opportunities and study abroad options, the possibilities for our students are endless. Students can participate in cultural and social activities and clubs, join organizations and honor societies, and become involved in sports, arts, music, and other creative opportunities that enhance their personal growth and leadership skills. New technology-enhanced learning initiatives – like our Drone Technology and Aviation programs – give ECSU students a competitive advantage in the 21st century marketplace.

We are proud to be home of NC Promise – a statewide initiative designed to increase educational access, reduce student debt and grow the state's economy. ECSU is one of four state universities that benefit from the lower tuition rate and the opportunity to graduate with less debt. Our commitment to access and affordability for higher education will remain a critical part of our mission.

Each year, ECSU is recognized by various higher education organizations for our commitment to providing a high-quality education that is affordable and accessible to all who seek it. We are ranked #5 among Public Schools in the Regional College South and #6 for Best Colleges for Veterans - Regional Colleges South by U.S. News & World Report (2023-24), #12 among the Best Bang for the Buck Southeast Colleges and #2 Bachelor's Colleges category by Washington Monthly in 2023.

This is a great time to be a Viking! We are transforming and heading towards greater possibilities. Welcome to Elizabeth City State University.

Viking Pride!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Keith Hargrove, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

S. Keith Hargrove, Sr., Chancellor



# ASCE

## **Strategic Priority 1: STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS**

Elizabeth City State University will increase retention and graduation rates by implementing a comprehensive student success strategy that integrates rigorous academics, personalized support, and innovative real-world and global learning experiences that elevate student progress, completion, and graduate success.

## **Strategic Priority 2: INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND GROWTH**

By 2030, Elizabeth City State University will accelerate strategic growth by launching innovative, future-focused academic offerings that integrate career readiness, experiential learning, and entrepreneurial thinking across all disciplines, driving enrollment to meet evolving workforce and societal needs.

## **Strategic Priority 3: GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND LEARN**

By 2030, Elizabeth City State University, in partnership with local and regional communities, will enrich the campus experience by attracting and developing top talent, fostering belonging, and amplifying the university's stature. We will exemplify service and invest in safe spaces, opportunities, and a vibrant culture that support academic excellence, employee growth, and a thriving environment for all.

## **Strategic Priority 4: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVANCEMENT**

By 2030, Elizabeth City State University will deepen partnerships with community, industry, military and alumni to expand workforce pathways, enrollment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and public service. These collaborations will strengthen our financial foundation, grow the endowment, and eliminate financial barriers to students' graduation—ensuring lasting opportunity and economic growth across the region.



# ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

## Overview

**Undergraduate Research Week 2026, “Reaching New Heights,”** celebrates ECSU’s motto **“Come to Discover, Leave to Conquer”** and the **2030 Strategic Plan “ASCEND”** through innovative student research, creativity, and collaboration across disciplines. The week features panel presentations, creative projects, poster sessions, and networking opportunities designed to highlight scholarly student research and foster engagement between students, faculty, staff, and the greater community.

### **Viking Day of Discovery - Research Lab Passport Initiative**

Throughout the week, students will participate in the Research Discovery, which encourages exploration across disciplines.

Students will:

- Attend sessions and events.
- Visit research labs and showcases.
- Collect participation stamps to include in their Viking Day of Discovery Passport Book.
- Submit the Passport Book for recognition at the closing event!



**Monday, April 13, 2026**

***Opening Day***

***G.R. Little Library - 2nd Floor***

**12 PM**

**12 PM**

**Welcome**

Sharon D. Raynor, PhD

**Opening Greetings**

Weszliya Craddock

Jasmine Jackson

**University Greetings**

Chancellor

Dr. S. Keith Hargrove, Sr.

Provost

Robert N. Corley III, PhD

**12:20 PM – 12:45 PM**

*Student Panel: The Value of Undergraduate Research*

Sare McClellan, Robert Holt, Shekinah Otieno, and Terendius David Jr.

*Viking Day of Discovery - Research Lab Passport Initiative*

Closing Remarks & Refreshments

**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Viking Day of Discovery Begins – Research Labs Open Across Campus



## Research Labs & Discovery Spaces

### **School of Humanities & Social Sciences**

#### Music & Visual Arts Labs:

- Fine Arts, Room 203 - Music Theory Lab
- Fine Arts, Room 206 - Music Recording Studio
- Fine Arts, Room 232 - Music Piano Lab

#### English, History, and Interdisciplinary Studies Labs:

- Johnson Hall, Room 143 - Center for Writing and Research
- Johnson Hall, Room 212/213 - Digital and Public Humanities Lab

#### Social Science Labs:

- Gilchrist 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Crime Lab
- Gilchrist 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - Mock Crime Scene

### **School of Business & Education**

#### Business, Accounting, and Sport Management

- Williams Hall, Room 124 - Entrepreneurship Production Lab



## Research Labs & Discovery Spaces

### School of Science, Aviation, Health & Technology

Department of Math, Computer Sciences, and Engineering Tech:

- Dixon Hall, Room 111 Mechanical Lab
- Dixon Hall, Room 119 Computer- Aided Design and Manufacturing Lab
- Dixon Hall, Room 218 Computer Lab
- Dixon Hall, Room 220 AI and Machine Learning Lab
- Dixon Hall, Room 222 Electronic Lab
- Dixon Hall, Room 226 Control Lab

Health and Human Studies:

- STEM Complex, Room 316 - Pharmaceutical Science Lab
- STEM Complex, Room 215- Cell and Molecular Biology Lab
- STEM Complex, Room 309- Department of Health and Human Studies Lab
- Vaughn Center, Room 110 -Kinesthetic Classroom
- Vaughn Center, Room 118C - Biomechanics Lab
- Vaughn Center, Room 119 - Sports Medicine Lab

Aviation and Emergency Management

- STEM Complex, Room 237 ATC lab
- STEM Complex, Room 209 - Surging Seas or GIS
- Drone Pavilion - Drone Flying
- Elizabeth City Regional Airport -Airport Tours
- STEM Complex, Room 102- Flight Sim Lab
- STEM Complex, Room 238 - Drone Sim Lab Net or Pix 4d
- Jenkins Science Center - Planetarium

# Tuesday, April 14, 2026

## School of Humanities & Social Sciences

Poster Sessions

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Gilchrist Complex (1st and 2nd Floors)

Faculty Facilitator:

Professor Debra Rook

Poster Session A (1st Floor)

### **Student Presenters:**

- Colby Heath – “Has Aviation Technology Advanced Enough to Bring Supersonic and Hypersonic Commercial Flight Back For The First Time Since The Concorde?”
- Zane Dautel – "Evaluating High vs. Low Wing Airplanes for Flight School Training Programs"
- Brock Schmittle – “What is the strongest geometric shape under different types of stress, and how do material properties influence its performance?”
- Ka'Rena Williams – “How do HBCUs contribute to Black students’ personal and social confidence, academic success, and cultural empowerment compared to PWIs?”
- Landon Timmons – “Autoregulation versus Fixed Loading: A Comparison of RPE- and Percentage-Based Training in General Powerlifters”

Poster Session B (2nd Floor)

### **Student Presenters:**

- Donshay Johnson – “What is the function of DNA in plants and humans?”
- Quivis Jackson – “How Do Ant Infestations Around Drink Dispensers in Underfunded North Carolina HBCUs Affect Environmental, Structural, and Equity Implications”
- Olivia Walker – “How does social media marketing help professional sports teams increase fan engagement and revenue?”
- Terrynda Winston – “The Value of Silent Letters in English Spelling”
- D'Angelo Pearson – “Water Gardness at ECSU”

Poster Session C (Virtual Session)

Faculty Facilitators:

Dr. Tina Craddock

### **Student Presenters:**

- Shawnice Mercer – “Employment Barriers for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals”
- Donjayne McCloud – “Ethical Misconduct in The Legal Profession”
- Tyler Acree – “The Lasting Shadow of Childhood Trauma”
- Kiara Lee – “Housing as a Critical Reentry Factor: Examining the Relationship Between Housing Instability and Recidivism”
- Trinity Smith – “The Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children”

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**Short Film Presentations**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Fine Arts Complex, Room 133

Faculty Facilitator: Professor Jeffrey Whelan

**Student Presenters:**

- Elijah Adair – “Dream Sequence”
- Trevor Jones – “The Chase”
- Makayla Council – “Peace”
- Ksaun Davis – “The Kloud”
- Kordell Edmondson – “Time Laps”
- Jonathan Gakeri – “Swimming”
- Nadrya Godwin – “Reality Always Shows”
- Aleya Howington – “Sleepwalking”
- Endia Johnston – “Almost”
- Jamarion Johnson – “Stranger”
- Ariyah Knocks – “Blink”
- Eliana Sexton – “Adagio”
- Tania Burwell – “Live Mode”
- Mia Cobos – “Just a Nightmare”
- Rayshawn Stallings– “School Daze”

**Music, Graphic Design & Digital Media Arts Presentations (Concurrent Rooms)**

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: Fine Arts Complex, Room 235

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Karen Strother-Jordan

**Student Presenters:**

- Jackson Prebe - “Maladjusted”
- Christopher Webb - “The Importance Of K-Pop Demon Hunters”
- Jaylun Williams- “Amanda The Adventurer 3 Trailer Youtube Short”
- Jordan Evans - “ECSU Basketball Winter Homecoming”
- Elijah Adair - “More Than a Campus”
- Stacey Bisignano - “Never Forget”

Location: Fine Arts Complex, Room 203

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Christopher Palestrant

**Student Presenters:**

- Alexander Staple - *Canon at the Octave: Imitative Two-Voice Counterpoint*
- Jaylynn Collins - *Canon at the Octave: Imitative Two-Voice Counterpoint*

Location: Fine Arts Complex, Room 158

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Bracy Martin, Professor John Stiles, and Professor Clarence Goss Jr.

**Student Presenters:**

- Jaiden Lister - Week with the Sound of Class (S.O.C.)
- Maleah Lassiter, Magazine Development and Production
- Serenity Shipp - *The Legacy* - Design Process
- Sabira Muhammad- Fashion4Ever
- Owen Meadows - Rebranding the ECSU Athletic Log

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

## Literary Studies & Humanities Presentations

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Location: Gilchrist Complex, Room 107

Faculty Facilitator: Professor Debra Rook

### Student Presenters:

- Mariyah Malone – “Frame by Frame: The Pros and Cons of a Career in Video Editing”
- Micah Williams – “Evaluating the Benefits and Downsides of College Automatic Failure Policies for Class Attendance”
- Thomas Riley – “The Science of Beyblades”
- Jordan Sutton – “The Pros and Cons of Entrepreneurship for Young Adults Starting Small Businesses”
- Artrese Roberts – “Shaping the World of Hair and Style”
- Elijah Faulkner – “The Pros and Cons of Building a Computer”
- Semari Boone – “The Price of Success: Wealth, Mental Health, and the Limits of Financial Happiness”
- Naijhir White - “Identifying and Addressing Barriers Preventing Men from Seeking Mental Health Help”
- Donte Allen – “The Effects Of ICE”
- Kaitlyn Henderson – “Burnout Among College Students and Its Effects on Motivation”
- TeBria Strayhorne – “Should Colleges Automatically Fail Students for Missing Mandatory Classes?”
- Bellot Gene – “The Impact of Playing Football on Long-term Brain Health”
- Alesia Lindsay – “Why Doctors Prescribe Medications That Can Have Side Effects?”

### Vibe Check - Music Showcase

3:30 PM –

Location: Fine Arts Recording Studio

Faculty Facilitator: Professor Justin Carter



# Wednesday, April 15, 2026

## School of Business & Education

### Oral Presentation - Virtual Session

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Xiaoli Yuan

#### Student Presenter:

- Tylon Wilson - “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Modern Business”

### Panel Presentation

11:00 AM– Gilchrist Complex, Room 201

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Nicole Austin

#### Student Presenters:

- Tamia Griffin - “Comparative Analysis of Early Childhood Settings in North Carolina”
- Nykayla Eason - “Exploring Early Childhood Settings using Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Model”

1:30 PM– 3:00 PM

Location: Williams Hall, Room 158

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Namhun Lim and Dr. Kungpo Tao

#### Student Presenters:

- Elijah Starkey - “Optimizing Retail Operations and Consumer Experience”
- Ifriam Sharp & Kennedi Silver Ball - “Don't Lie: Using Data to Understand ECSU Women's Basketball's Rise and Slide”
- Markee Watford & Joshua Maraveles - “Centralizing and Improving Campus Engagement”

### Panel Presentation

1:00 PM – Gilchrist Complex, Room 201

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Nicole Austin

#### Student Presenters:

- Savannah Bechiom - “Current Early Childhood Policy Issues and Trends”
- Tae’saun Pettiford - “Science in the Early Childhood Classroom Today”
- Kanasha Sutton - “Early Childhood Education and Current Early Literacy Trends”

2:00 PM – Gilchrist Complex, Room 201

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Nicole Austin

#### Presenters:

- Sha Kevia Greer - “Case Study: Early Childhood Intervention Plan”
- Solomon Ford - TBA
- Melanie Weston - “The Financial Impacts of Pre-service Teaching”



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Poster Session A

10:00 AM

Location: Williams Hall Lobby

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Kim Scott

**Student Presenters:**

- Brooke Byrd & Quamia Outlaw–UN SDG 5
- Quran Spence & Aiden Staples–UN SDG 7
- Luca Gurney & Amari Richardson–UN SDG 9
- Brooke Pierce & Mariah Gallop–UN SDG 10
- Demetrius Bradford & Dillon Moore –UN SDG 10
- Joshua Maraveles & Cedric Seymour–UN SDG 11

Poster Session B

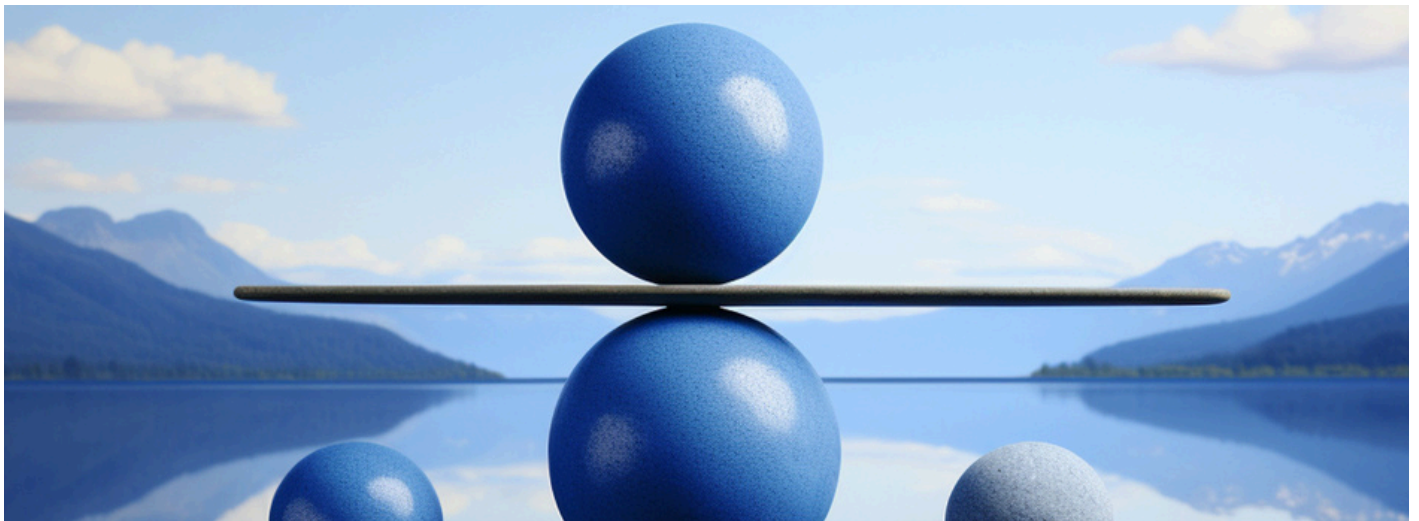
12:00 PM

Location: Williams Hall Lobby

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Kim Scott

**Student Presenters:**

- Sabira Muhammad & Allison Perry –UN SDG 2
- Jasmine Burke & Anyah Bowe –UN SDG 3
- Victoria Riggs & leicia Demps –UN SDG 4
- Max Xo & Christian Wilson– UN SDG 4
- Nickolas Cheatham & Cole Johnson– UN SDG 6
- Mustafa Elbashir & Maleah Lassiter – UN SDG 12
- Tejan Hunter & Semari Boone– UN SDG 13
- Ajani Farmer & Jayden Drayton– UN SDG 15
- Amire Askew & Jordan Sutton– UN SDG 16
- Sheldon Locke– UN SDG 17
- Xavier Basnight & Nyashia Perry – UN SDG 14
- Toriyon Battle & Donald Moore III – UN SDG 18
- Bianca Breaux and Amaree Jackson – UN SDG 1
- Trinity Dubb and Alexander Eaton – UN SDG 17



# Thursday, April 16, 2026

## STEM Innovation Day

### Poster Session A

1st Floor - STEM Complex

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

#### Faculty Facilitators:

Dr. Kilwinder Kaur-Walker, Dr. Dolapo Adedeji, Dr. Boungh Jin Kang, Mr. Antonio Rook, and Dr. Nicole Austin

#### Student Presenters:

- Zoe Degn– “The Effects of Background Music on Memory and Retention in College Students”
- Anthony Brunson– “The Effect of Blindfolding on Flavor Identification Accuracy”
- Lacei Banks– “The Influence of Cell Phone Presence on Test Performance Among College Students”
- Caelyn Walker-Hart– “Effect of Music on Concentration and Memory Retention”
- Jada Dixon– “Influence of Subliminal Brown Noise Audio on College Student’s Mood, Confidence, and Problem-Solving Performance”
- Dajiah Easter– “The Impact of Mindfulness on Emotional Regulation and Academic Performance in College Students”
- Ada Morgan Godwin - “Initial Evaluation of Metformin, Dihydroartemisinin (DHA), and Taro Extract (TE) in Combination with Cisplatin for Enhanced Cytotoxicity in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) Cell Lines”
- Scott Etheridge–Cystic Fibrosis - “What Is It and How Can It Be Managed?”
- Israel Denny– “Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Kinesiology Curriculum at HBCU: A Framework for Innovation, Equity, and Workforce Readiness”
- Madison Henderson– “Impact of Teacher Wellness Rooms on Staff Resilience, Mental Health, and Work Performance”

### Poster Session B

3rd Floor - STEM Complex

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

#### Faculty Facilitators:

Mr. Antonio Rook, Dr. Mohamed Elbakary, Dr. Mehran Elahi, Dr. Abdennaceur Karoui, and Dr. Prabuddha Dewage

#### Student Presenters:

- Yasmary Rodriguez-Cuevas– “Beyond the Digital Silo: Collaborative 3D Sandboxes and Reciprocal AI Learning in K-5”
- Niarea Matthews and Mohamed Elbakary– “Analysis of SAR Images for Flood Mapping”
- Hannah Rudisill– “Design and Implementation of a Chemical Sensing Switch Using LabVIEW Programming”
- Evette Romero, Damon Burton, Matthew Curry, Abdennaceur Karoui– “Substrate-Controlled Hydrogen Adsorption on Pt Monolayers Supported by Mo-W Alloys”
- Damon Burton, Evette Romero, Matthew Curry– “Moments-Based Descriptors for Classifying Local Surface Environments in HEA’s”
- Qimora Mason– “CNT Property Prediction using Machine Learning Architectures”

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

9:30 AM – 11:40 AM

Location: STEM Complex, Room 206

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Kim Downing

**Student Presenters:**

- Temprance Robbs - “Staying Geopolitically Aware and Data Driven: A Comparative Analysis of US Campus Mass Shootings and Global Patterns of Systemic Violence”
- Alicia Perry, Ariana Smith, Kaylah Jones - “Building Sustainable Practitioners: An Equity-Centered Model of Resilience in Field Education”
- Saniya Coston - “Equity in Action: Strengthening Rural Elementary Student Outcomes Through Contextually Grounded Field Education”

**Guest Speaker**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Dr. M. Drew LaMar, Associate Professor of Biology at William & Mary University  
STEM Complex - Room 203**

**Midday Break**

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

**Refreshments – STEM Complex, 2nd Floor**

Panel Presentations

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: STEM Complex, Room 103

Faculty Facilitators: Dr. Haley Caldwell, Dr. Abdennaceur Karoui, and Dr. Hirendra Banerjee

**Student and Faculty Presenters:**

- Fetida-Michael Hall - “A Critical Comparison of Invasive and Non-Invasive Sampling Techniques for Microbiome Studies in Eisenia”
- Rogelio Lopez Bonilla - “Anisotropic Diffusion of Nitrogen in Silicon: A Multi-Scale Tensorial Framework”
- Anasua Banerjee, Simone Newell, Erik Armstrong, Christopher Krauss, Narendra Banerjee, Jamie Noble, Nahturie Ward, Ahmed El Hashash, Hirendra Banerjee - “An Investigation to Study The Role Of Pluripotent Mesenchymal Stem Cells (Msc) Derived From Exosomes On Different Cancer Cell Lines”

Panel Presentations

2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Location: Vaughn Center, Room 110 (Kinesthetic Classroom)

Faculty Facilitator: Dr. Scott Bradshaw & Dr. Kacey Hopson

Student Presenters:

- Dexter Ivey, Danielle Lamb, Nallely Portillo, Zaylen Ramos, Keon Satterthwaite, Jasmine Snowden, Kenya Turner, and Andrell White - “Heat Risks and Heat Island Effects on Campus and in the Region”
- Zaria Dunn, Jadarius Jones, Kamille Shannon, Kayvawn Simms-Rogers, Jaelan Smith, & Zaire Smith - “Pickleball Pop-Ups: A Novel Approach to Increasing Student Physical Activity”

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

Poster Session C (1st Floor - STEM Complex)

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Faculty Facilitators:

Professor Marla Faison

Dr. Dorothy Henderson Bell

Dr. Kevin Kupietz

Dr. Feseha Abebe-Akele

Dr. Haley Caldwell

Professor Michel Winrow

**Student and Faculty Presenters:**

- Ethan Jones – “Flight Student Views on Skin Cancer Risks”
- Caszhmere Chaison – “Airport Disruption Trends”
- Leslie Billotte, Raymi Sharp, and Gabrielle Duckett – “Advanced Air Mobility Research for Workforce Development and Public Safety”
- Isabela Lujan – “Drone Use in Flood Mitigation”
- Ariyah Nocks, Dorothy Henderson Bell, Khiya Zahir, Gabrielle Duckett, Clarence Goss, Jacqueline Huff, Reagan Charlton, Trinity Branche – “Tvt Project to Develop Prevention of College Student Radicalization Y Terrorist Groups”
- Kylie Davis – “Low-Copy CEN Plasmid controlled Expression of Cyanobacterial Carotenoid Genes in Yeast”
- Khadeijah Howard – “Genomic Integration of Cyanobacterial Carotenoid Genes for Stable Probiotic Engineering in Yeast”
- Zachary Still – “Environmental Phage Discovery and Genomic Characterization from the ECSU Campus Microbiome”
- Adedeji Adetayo – “Developing Nano-Structure Roughness in Magnetron Sputtered Cu-Thin Films”
- Michael Hall – “Microbial Profiling of Eisenia fetida Gut Microbiome: Testing an Anatomy-Guided Dissection Sampling Method for DNA Isolation Across Dietary Treatments”
- Alana Jones, Christian Jones, Dr. Feseha Abebe-Akele, Dr. Roberto Frontera-Suau – “Soil Microbial Associations with Quercus virginiana Across Coastal Maritime Habitats”
- Alana Jones, Christian Jones, Dr. Feseha Abebe-Akele, Dr. Roberto Frontera-Suau-Odonate – “Community Structure in the Albemarle Region of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina”
- Jade Pugh – “Oral Microbial Acidogenicity”



Thursday, April 16, 2026

Presentations

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Dixon Hall, Room 225

Faculty Facilitators: Professor Usha Kulkarni, Dr. Julian Allagan, and Dr. Akbar Eslami

**Student Presenters:**

- Mylene Joco - “Cracking The Code: Exploring Divisibility Rules and Modular Arithmetic in Everyday Mathematics”
- Sydney Macon - “Discrete Methods”
- Navian Hilliard - “Propositional Logic”
- Mason Stuart - “Integer Representatives and Algorithms”
- Robert Van Valzah - Research Paper
- Austin Wriston - “Bitwise Operations on Binary Strings: AND, OR, and XOR”
- Mackenzie Palmer - “Encryption Keys”
- Joseph Johnson - “Graph Theory and Its Applications in Computer Science”
- Hunter Cotie - “An Explanation of The Collatz Conjecture”
- Odi Durnad Mich Diambra - “Caesar Cipher Implementation and Security Analysis”
- Gabrielle Morgan - “The Bichromatic Triangle Coloring Polynomial of Some 2-Trees”
- Dasia Singleton - “Differential Extension Methods for Bichromatic Graph Polynomials”
- Qwinton Hemphill - “Design, and Fabricate a VTOL Drone”



**Friday, April 17, 2026**

**Closing Day**

**G.R. Little Library**

12:00 PM – 12:10 PM

Student Closing Reflections

12:10 PM – 12:30 PM

Student Poetry Showcase

- Jordan Gibson, Mia Baker-Spruill, and Richard (Jamie) Farris.

12:30 PM – 12:40 PM

Dean's Closing Remarks – Dr. Chyna N. Crawford

12:40 PM

Viking Day of Discovery - Research Lab Passport Initiative (Book Collection)

Special Session

Mini-Grant Program Panel & 2026 Competition Announcement

([Zoom link](#))

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Poster Session

Faculty Facilitators:

Dr. Latif Tarik

Dr. Kim Downing

Dr. JoCora Moore

**Student Presenters:**

- Nichole Walker – “The Myth of Black Excellence”
- David Holmes – “How Much Sawdust Can You Put In Rice Crispy Treats Before People Notice?”
- Joe Griffin – “Black Feminist Dystopia: Leadership and Community in *Parable of the Sower*”
- Morgan Powers – “The Effect of RDU on Surrounding Communities”
- MyAsia Fulton – “*Parable of The Sower*- A Lesson in Adaptability”
- Chukundi Salisbury – “Vikings and AI: Examining Artificial Intelligence Tool Preferences Among Undergraduate Students at Elizabeth City State University”
- Nathan Aston – “Wingtip Devices and Their Impacts”
- Kiana Brown – *Parable of the Sower*
- Kiana Brown – “The Impact of UAS on First Responders”
- Nyasia Dawson, Tyreak Simmons, and Zariyah Wooden – “From Classroom to Practice: Integrating Resilience and Wellness in Social Work Education”
- Mia Baker Spruill – “Sundown Towns and Their Legacies”
- Jayla Williams – “The North Carolina HBCU Freedom Trail: Education, Activism, and Memory”
- Jahneva Rogers – “Princeville, North Carolina: A Legacy of Freedom and Resilience”



**SCAN ME**

*for*

**Weekly Itinerary**





# *Acknowledgements*

## **Special Thanks**

**Dr. Robert N. Corley, III, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**

**Mrs. Teameco Broughton**

**Dr. Chyna N. Crawford, Dean**

**Dr. Kim Downing**

**Mr. Clarence Goss**

**Dr. Dorothy Henderson-Bell**

**Ms. Kiera Hinton**

**Miss Destiny Hodge**

**Mr. Greg Miller**

**Ms. Angel Pinckney**

**Dr. Kuldeep Rawat, Dean**

**Dr. Charles Reed**

**Mrs. Penelope Royal**

**Mr. Antonio Rook**

**Dr. Sharon D. Raynor, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs**

**Dr. Kim Scott**

**Dr. Narendra Sharma, Dean**

**Dr. Kim Stanley**

**Dr. Latif Tarik**

**Mrs. Cynthia Wise**

**G.R. Little Library**

**1704 Media Productions**

**Office of Undergraduate Research & Creativity**

**Center for Teaching, Learning & Digital Education**