



**Strategic Horizon Network  
Raleigh, NC**

**June 7-9, 2026**

**Colloquium Theme:  
*Triangulating the Dynamics of Change***

**Our Philosophy**

Member institutions are the heart of the Strategic Horizon Network, a self-organized learning community focusing on organizational stretch, exploring new trends, and building capacity. Collaboration and leveraging the synergy of the Network to learn, build strength, and support institutional adaptation are its cornerstones.

The environment in which community colleges operate is changing at an ever-accelerating and increasingly complex rate. Social, technological, and political forces are fundamentally altering the educational landscape in ways that are not easily understood. The Strategic Horizon Network believes that unprecedented challenges require unconventional solutions that can only be found through uncommon learning.

**Network Design Principles**

1. Explore *disruptive innovation* that is ahead of traditional and commonplace thinking to identify new patterns, signals, and trends.
2. Understand creative and effective aspects of *dynamic organizational culture* to adapt insights, evolve traditional models, and inspire growth in culture, programs, services, and systems at member institutions.
3. Analyze all learning opportunities through **an equity lens** to understand the systemic implications for our students, employees, and communities.
4. Foster an *institutional growth mindset* through *team-based learning* and *cross-college idea sharing and collaboration* in the pursuit and execution of innovation and change.
5. Maintain a Network membership that fosters a sense of *familiarity, fellowship, and support among institutions* and its participants.
6. Provide *common learning opportunities through uncommon experiences outside of postsecondary education*.

**Colloquium Background**

Community colleges are navigating a period marked by rapid acceleration, rising complexity, and heightened expectations from the students and communities they serve. Leaders are being asked to guide their institutions through overlapping shifts in workforce demands, technology, public trust, and organizational culture – often all at

once. Meaningful progress in this environment depends less on isolated initiatives and more on how institutions understand, align, and navigate change over time. This colloquium centers on change management as a disciplined, human-centered practice that connects strategy, culture, and purpose. Participants will examine emerging signals shaping the future, explore 2040 scenarios as tools for better decision-making, and learn from organizations in the Research Triangle that are actively translating vision into action. Through keynotes, collaborative sense-making, and immersive site visits, members will deepen their capacity to prepare campus cultures for change that strengthens equity, improves the student and employee experience, and builds lasting institutional resilience.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Understand the importance of intentional change management strategies and evaluate different approaches.
2. Explore 2040 scenarios and the importance of futures thinking to inform change management strategies.
3. Analyze various change management strategies in the Research Triangle.
4. Identify priority considerations to further prepare campus cultures to embrace and leverage change management strategies to improve the student and employee experience, as well as improve operational efficiencies.

<b>Sunday, June 7</b>	<b>Stateview Hotel - 2451 Alumni Drive, Raleigh, NC</b>
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**2:00-4:00 p.m.**      **Design Team Meeting** (Presidents & SHN Liaisons)  
*Stateview - Viewpoint*

**4:30-5:30 p.m.**      **Reception - The Hub**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**      **Dinner - Fusion Ballroom**

**6:30-7:30 p.m.**      ***“Perpetual Change: Insights from Dallas Herring Lectures”***  
**Dr. Audrey (AJ) Jaeger, W. Dallas Herring Professor and  
Executive Director of the Belk Center for Community  
College Leadership and Research at NC State**

Sharing insights from the past 11 years of the Dallas Herring Lecture series, Dr. Jaeger will outline how the lecture has served as a framework for change. Building upon the idea that change is perpetual, she describes how ideas first shared during the lecture have helped launch nationwide concepts that advance student success. In this way, the lecture series can not only spur reflection but also bold action.

## **Monday, June 8      Stateview Hotel & Site Visits**

**7:30 - 8:30 a.m.      Breakfast - Stateview - *Synergy Ballroom***

**8:30 - 9:45 a.m.      *"Reset: How to Change What's Not Working"*  
Dan Heath, Best-Selling Author, Speaker & Podcaster  
Stateview - *Fusion Ballroom***

Change at work often feels overwhelming - constrained by habits, limited time, and constant firefighting. In this session, drawing from his book *RESET*, Heath introduces a practical framework for getting unstuck by identifying "leverage points," where small, focused efforts can produce outsized results. We'll challenge common assumptions about buy-in, examine the importance of clarifying the real goal, and explore how a sense of progress can accelerate meaningful change, without requiring more resources. *Yesterday, we were stuck. Today, we reset.*

**9:45 - 10:00 a.m.      Break**

**10:00 - 11:45 p.m.      *"2040 is Here - but we have to look closely"*  
Dr. Randall J. VanWagoner, President, MVCC  
Stateview - *Fusion Ballroom***

The forces reshaping learning, work, and community life are accelerating, and the signals of 2026 offer a clear glimpse into the 2040 talent ecosystem our students will enter. This workshop will explore those signals and their implications for change management.

**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.      Lunch - Stateview - *Synergy Ballroom***

**1:00 - 1:30 p.m.      Inter-college Cross-Team Downloads and Sense-Making  
Stateview - *Fusion Ballroom***

**1:30 - 2:00 p.m.      College Team Connections and Applications**

**2:00-2:15 p.m.      Break**

**2:15 - 2:30 p.m.      Load buses and DEPART 2:30 - travel to Learning Site Visits**

**3:00 - 4:15 p.m.      LEARNING SITE VISITS  
(exploring change management and org. culture)**

**1. SAS (20-minute bus):** Explore how SAS integrates data, leadership, and culture to navigate change over time. This session will highlight how organizations use applied AI and modeling to inform decision-making, align leadership and talent practices to operationalize strategy, and intentionally shape employee experience to build connection and purpose. Through a multi-leader perspective, participants will gain insight into how strategy, culture, and execution come together to sustain innovation in a dynamic environment.

**2. Marbles Kids Museum (15-minute bus):** Explore how Marbles Kids Museum has transformed over the past 20 years, including a strategic merger, a new partnership with county leadership, and the transition to new executive leadership following its founding CEO. This visit will highlight how the organization engaged and aligned its team through periods of change while staying focused on the customer experience. Participants will gain insight into lessons learned, future expansion plans, and how a mission-driven organization brings its people along to sustain growth and impact.

**3. SCHUNK USA (25-minute bus):** Explore how SCHUNK USA is meeting evolving manufacturing demands with precision workholding expertise with practical automation – supported by intentional workforce development and disciplined organizational management. This visit focuses on how technology is validated, deployed, and sustained on the shop floor, and how teams are trained and supported as roles and workflows evolve. Participants will tour SCHUNK’s Technology Center, automation co-lab for proof-of-concept testing, and the manufacturing floor, with discussion on the continued physical demands of modern manufacturing and the importance of close collaboration with customers to design solutions that work in real production conditions.

**4:15 - 4:45 p.m.**      **Travel back to the Hotel**

**Evening**              **Open time/Dinner on your own**

<b>Tuesday, June 9</b>	<b>Stateview Hotel</b>
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**7:30-8:30 a.m.**      **Breakfast - Stateview - Synergy Ballroom**

**8:30-10:00 a.m.**      *“The Future Was Yesterday: Higher Education's Great Upheaval and the Needs of the New Learner”*

**Scott Van Pelt, Author, Speaker & Director of Research & Faculty Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education**  
**Stateview - Fusion Ballroom**

Even before the pandemic, institutions stood at a crossroads; today, student needs have continued to shift rapidly, even as online education and the growing integration of AI tools in classrooms and workplaces have introduced new complexities, risks, and possibilities. In this session, Scott Van Pelt, co-author of "The Great Upheaval" and its sequel, "From Upheaval to Action", will explore how institutions can adapt to meet the evolving needs of learners in a time of sweeping change.

**10:00-10:15 a.m.**      **Colloquium Closing/Wrap**

\*\*\*\*Grab ‘n Go Snacks/Water will be available \*\*\*