

NCBiotech Summit 2026: Eastern Region

Agenda | September 17, 2026

9:30 a.m. Registration | Networking

10:00 a.m. Opening Session

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mark Phillips, Vice President, Statewide Operations, NCBiotech

Chris Buddo, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, East Carolina University

Master of Ceremonies: Sharon Paynter, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Innovation,
East Carolina University; Member, Board of Directors, NCBiotech

Presentation of Proclamations

Lee Lilley, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce

P.J. Connelly, Mayor, City of Greenville

Janis Gallagher, Manager, Pitt County

State of Life Sciences: North Carolina and the Eastern Region

Doug Edgeton, MPH, MBA, President and CEO, NCBiotech

Mary Beth Thomas, Senior Vice President, Science and Business Development, NCBiotech

Spotlight: East Carolina University Outer Banks Campus (Video)

Research Impacts on Eastern NC: Opportunities for Collaboration and Innovation (Panel)

This session will share the vision for North Carolina's future and diversity in life sciences research and how Eastern North Carolina is contributing to making it happen.

Moderator: John Cavanagh, Associate Vice Provost for Research, East Carolina University

Panelists:

- **Tim Alcorn**, Ph.D., Managing Director Healthcare, Sia/Latham BioPharm Group
- **Jason Buskirk**, Vice President, Enterprise Data and Analytics, ECU Health
- **Stefan Clemens**, Ph.D., Professor and Graduate Director, Department of Physiology, East Carolina University
- **Malcolm Meyn**, Ph.D., MSHS — Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Amalgent Therapeutics, Inc.
- **Mike Muglia**, Ph.D., Interim Director, Coastal Studies Institute, East Carolina University

11:45 a.m. Networking Lunch

12:15 p.m. Lunch Session

Lunch Sponsor:



Chris Johnson, Director of Economic Development, Johnston County Economic Development

Keynote Introductory Remarks

Doug Edgeton, MPH, MBA, President and CEO, NCBiotech

Dr. Charles Hamner Keynote Presentation: ECU Health — Becoming the Model for Rural Healthcare

Michael Waldrum, M.D., M.Sc., MBA, President and CEO, ECU Health; Dean, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Order of the Long Leaf Pine Presentation

Master of Ceremonies

1:10 p.m. Transition Break

1:30 p.m. Afternoon Session

Spotlight: Building Eastern NC's BioPharma Workforce (Video)

NC Pharmaceutical Services Network Special Recognition

Maria Pharr, Ed.D., President, Pitt Community College

Workforce Development Session: How NCGrads2Work Is Creatively Meeting Industry Workforce Needs (Panel)

This session will share perspectives from a high school career development coordinator, industry partners, and a former NCGrads2Work student turned employee, on building effective pathways from diploma to paycheck.

Moderator: Monica Lassiter, Associate Director, Regional Office, NCBiotech

Panelists:

- **Carlin Blakely**, Human Resources Generalist, Thermo Fisher Scientific
- **Natalie Evans**, Career Development Coordinator, D.H. Conley High School
- **Micah Geiger**, MBA, PHR, Sr. Human Resources Manager, Catalent Pharma Solutions
- **Kiriayani Woolard**, R&D / Manufacturing Scientist I, Thermo Fisher Scientific; graduate, NCGrads2Work

Spotlight: NCGrads2Work Connects Talent to Leading Life Sciences Companies (Video)

Economic Development Session: Strategic Alignment for Regional Readiness Success (Panel)

This session will highlight the perspectives of experienced economic developers and life sciences leaders as they discuss the impact and value of a regional approach. The conversation will span key considerations for site selection decisions, unique assets that attract life sciences companies to eastern North Carolina, and the vision for the future.

Moderator: Laura Rowley, Ph.D., Vice President, Life Sciences Economic Development, NCBiotech

Panelists:

- **Kelly Andrews**, MBA, CECd, Executive Director, Pitt County Economic Development
- **Jennifer Lantz**, Executive Director, Wilson Economic Development Council
- **Loren Limberis**, Ph.D., Director, Eastern Region Pharma Center, East Carolina University
- **Krizay Elenitoba-Johnson**, M.S., Chief Operations Officer, Nipro Medical
- **Pete Goodridge**, General Manager, Johnson & Johnson – Innovative Medicine

Break Sponsor:



Susan Phelps, MPA, Economic Development Director, Nash County

3:00 p.m. Networking Break

3:30 p.m. Closing Session

The Power of AI and Immersive Technology on Pharma Manufacturing Operations (Keynote)

Learn how AI, computer vision, and Interactive Digital Models are being used to enhance training, increase operational visibility, reduce downtime, and improve manufacturing performance

Gerald Logan, Director of Technical Operations, AES, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Spotlight: Claradele Pharmaceutical (Video)

Statewide Synergies: Life Sciences Across North Carolina (Panel)

Hear how NCBiotech's statewide team is well positioned for cross-regional collaboration to leverage shared resources and maximize impact across communities. This panel will highlight the power of partnerships to achieve strategic outcomes together.

Moderator: Mark Phillips, Vice President, Statewide Operations; Executive Director, Eastern Region, NCBiotech

Panelists:

- **Corie Curtis**, Executive Director, Greater Charlotte Region, NCBiotech
- **Sara Imhof**, Ph.D., Vice President, Focused Initiative Team, NCBiotech
- **Randall Johnson**, MBA, Executive Director, Southeastern Region, NCBiotech
- **Nancy Johnston**, M.A., Executive Director, Piedmont Triad Region, NCBiotech
- **Laura Rowley**, Ph.D., Vice President, Life Sciences Economic Development, NCBiotech

Closing Remarks

Bill Bullock, MBA, Senior Vice President, NCBiotech — Closing Remarks | 2027 Announcement

Master of Ceremonies — Closing Remarks | Reception Instructions

4:45 p.m. Transportation to Networking Reception

5:00 p.m. Networking Reception: TowneBank Tower at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

6:30 p.m. Transportation back to Student Center (continuous throughout reception)



Speaker Bios