

Duke | State Relations



Duke in NC Report

February 2022

Stay up-to-date on what Duke University, Duke Health, and Duke LifePoint Healthcare are doing around North Carolina.

Duke Pediatrician Named as NCDHHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families

Duke Pediatrician, Dr. Charlene Wong, was recently named as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families for the North



Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Wong will lead the department's new Division of Child and Family Well-Being, bringing together programs and staff currently operating across multiple department divisions that support the physical, behavioral and social needs of children and families.

Dr. Charlene Wong



College Advising Corps at Duke Partners to Improve College Access

The College Advising Corps (CAC) at Duke University works to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college and underrepresented high school

students in rural North Carolina that enter and complete higher education. To deliver on this mission, the program recruits and places well-trained, recent college graduates as full-time, near-peer college advisers in the state's underserved schools and communities to provide the support that students need. Meghana Giri, a CAC advisor at Knightdale High School in Wake County, reflects on her experience working with students to increase college access.

Duke CAC

Duke Team Provides Novel COVID-19 Care at Home



Thanks to a new monoclonal antibody infusion program offered by Duke HomeCare & Hospice, certain patients who test positive for COVID-19 are eligible for an infusion designed to decrease the risk of transmission,

stimulate a stronger immune response, decrease symptoms and make it less likely a recovery in the hospital will be necessary. Duke HomeCare & Hospice has the largest home infusion program in North Carolina.

Care at Home



Researchers Develop New “Country-Politan” Interpretation of North Carolina Politics

Researchers from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University recently published a new study on contemporary politics in North Carolina, offering fresh insights into why Democratic presidential candidates lost North Carolina in 10 out of the last 11 elections, and why they won only one U.S. Senate race in the last 20 years and two in the last 30. Researchers call this a “Country-Politan” problem that largely stems from the makeup of 28 N.C. counties former President Trump carried in 2016 and 2020.

Country-Politan

Duke-Designed Dashboards Map Benefits of NC’s Natural and Working Lands



Duke University’s Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions launched a series of tools to make detailed information about North Carolina’s forests, farmlands, and wetlands more accessible for land owners and decision makers. Covering more than 80 percent of North Carolina, natural and working lands provide a variety of benefits to the state’s people and economy: protecting water quality and supply, reducing flood risk,

providing habitat for pollinators, and more. The NC Natural and Working Lands Dashboards enable users to quickly see those benefits by county, river basin, or land type.

Dashboards



Duke Student's Research on Language Barriers in Healthcare is Personal

Duke undergraduate Elaijah Lapay is studying how well healthcare systems communicate with patients from other cultures, an interest shaped by the experience of his immigrant grandmother who struggled to communicate with hospital staff in eastern North Carolina. Lapay brings his family's personal experience to his Bass Connections work and his major through Program II, an innovative custom-designed major around a specific subject.

Language Barriers

School of Medicine Students Plant Change for Environmental Justice in Durham



Residents of Durham's Hayti community, one of the oldest Black communities in the city, will enjoy a flourishing array of blooming trees along their sidewalks this spring thanks to a joint effort by community members, the City of Durham, local nonprofits, and Duke University School of Medicine students. Nearly 100 trees were recently planted in southeastern

Durham with the goal of protecting the community against the negative health impacts of climate change.

Plants for Change

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