

**AGG  
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## Lifelong Learners and Student Success

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NC A&T Board of Trustees

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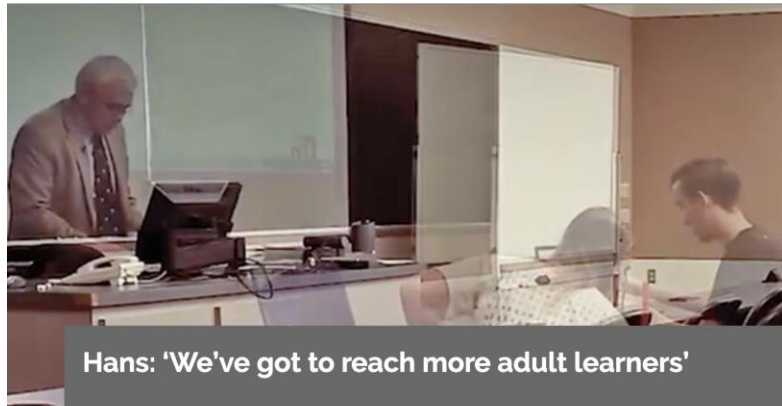
# BACKGROUND

*Today only about a third of American adults enjoy the social status and job opportunities afforded by attainment of a 4-year college degree (Bryant, 2021)*

HigherEd Works



Home About

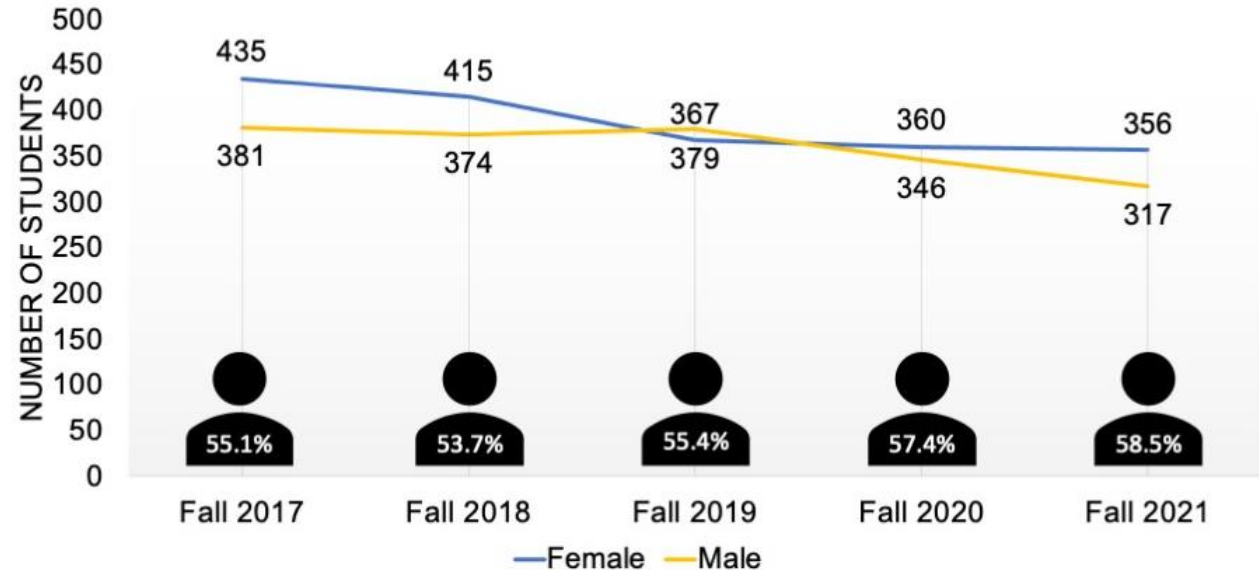


Hans: 'We've got to reach more adult learners'

CHAPEL HILL (April 28, 2021) – Birth rates dropped during the Great Recession – many families weren't sure of their futures. And 13 years later, colleges and universities are preparing to face the consequences.

The population of 18- to 24-year-olds nationwide is projected to decline in coming years, with precipitous drops in the Northeast and Midwest. Because of North Carolina's population growth, though, it is expected to see more of a plateau in its historically steady growth in high-school graduates.

## N.C. A&T Undergraduate Adult Learner Enrollment



## ADULT LEARNERS ARE DEFINED AS...

### N.C. A&T Policy (Sec. II-UG: Admissions 4.0)

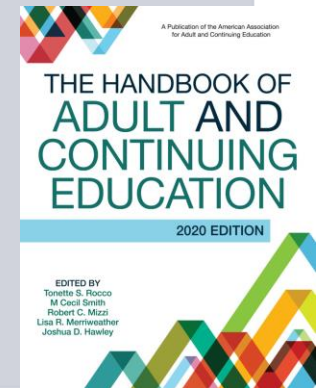
- “Any person 21 years of age or older (by the time of the first day of classes, according to the University’s academic calendar) is considered a non-traditional student and may be considered for undergraduate admission as a first-time student...”

### UNC System “Adult Learners’ Stakeholder Website

- “The state is home to 1.1 million adults between the ages of 25 and 64 with some college but no degree.”
- “For FY2016-2017 the North Carolina General Assembly approved a one-time appropriation of \$2.3 million to the University of North Carolina General Administration (UNC-GA) to research and develop strategies and technology to recruit and retain adult learners who have completed some college but have not earned a degree.”

### The Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education (2020)

- “The most widely accepted definition any learner aged 24 or older” (Rocco, Smith, Mizzi, Merriweather, & Hawley, 2020).



# GRANT PROGRESS REPORTS

## What we've done...

## What we're doing...

## What we're going to do...



### Project ARROW:

Adults Re-engaging and Realizing Opportunities in the Workforce

- Secured \$250K for adult learner exploration
- Hired Project Coordinator
- Hired 2 graduate assistants
- Submitted IRB application

- Analyzing adult learner population for baselining student success initiatives
- Planning Fall data collection
- Scheduling professional development for individuals working with the Adult-Learner population

- Conduct focus groups with adult learners, faculty, and student support professionals.
- Provide professional development workshops for faculty and student facing support staff
- Present at the 2022 American Association for Adult and Continuing Education



### Moving Forward, Moving Together

- Secured \$80K to modernize learner records and expand credit for prior learning (CPL) and prior learning assessment (PLA) for adult learners
- Identified 25 faculty, chairs, associate deans to participate in CPL/PLA workshop series

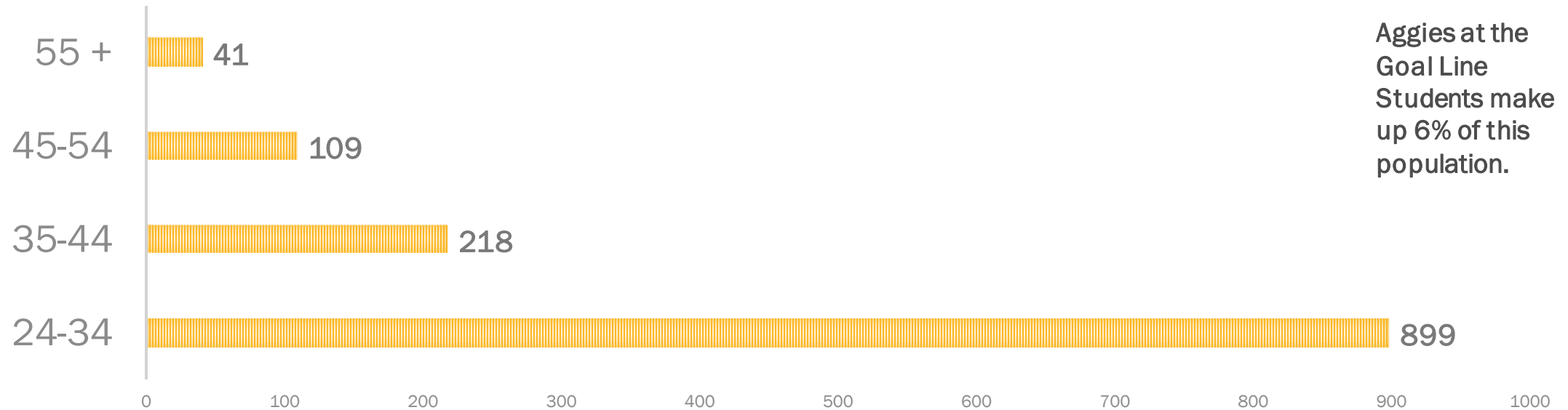
- Preparing for listserv for NCAT adult-learner population
- Recruiting data analyst
- Planning CPL/PLA webinar

- Deploy *Adult Learner 360 survey* to adult learners, faculty, staff, and administrators
- Hire a data analyst
- Host webinar with CPL/PLA experts

# AGE SPREAD OF OUR ADULT LEARNERS

*Spring 2022*

ADULT LEARNERS ENROLLMENT: SPRING 2022



Aggies at the Goal Line  
Students make up 6% of this population.

# Project ARROW: Preliminary Findings

*(Based on Spring 2022 Enrollment Data)*



## Demographics

- Age Range: 24 to 78
- Gender: 52% F 48% M

## Performance

- 92% good academic standing
- 268 Chancellor's or Dean's List

## Program

- Modality: 75% Main, 25% Distance
- Top UG Programs:
  - Liberal Studies
  - Information Technology
  - Business Information Technology



We intend to further explore upper class adult learners who have GPA < 3.0 and examine this potential barrier to internship participation. What are some alternative ways we can further support these students for success beyond completion?

# GUILD STUDENTS

*A growing segment of our Adult-Learner Population*

- All Guild Students are distance learners
- The number of Guild Students enrolled tripled from Spring 2022 to Fall 2022
- 80% of the Guild Students are majoring in Business Information Technology or Information Technology

GUILD Enrollment	
<b>Fall 2022</b>	<b>27</b>
Business Information Technology	10
Information Technology	12
Cybersecurity Cert	1
Data Analytics Cert	1
MS-Technology Management	1
OSH Cert	2
<b>Spring 2022</b>	<b>9</b>
Business Information Technology	2
Information Technology	1
OSH Cert	6
<b>Summer I</b>	<b>8</b>
MBA	2
OSH Cert	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

# IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCE OF ADULT LEARNERS

## *Opportunities*

- Celebrate Adult Learner Honors Fraternity
- Add new adult learner pathways through Project Kitty Hawk
- Improve learning outside the confines of a traditional classroom
- Expansion of prior learning assessments (PLA)
  - > Proficiency Credit
  - > Military Experience
  - > Certifications
  - > Work Related Experience
  - > Credit by Artifact



## Future Steps for 2022-2023 Academic Year

### Data Infrastructure

- \$1.5 Million proposal under review for Phase II [Sept. 2022]
- Administer *Adult Learner 360* Assessment [Oct. 2022]
- Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis [ongoing]

### Faculty Development & Engagement

- Center for Teaching Excellence to facilitate professional development workshops focused on the characteristics of adult learners during college/departamental meetings [ongoing]
- Council for Adult and Experiential Learning Workshops [Sept & Oct 2022]

### Policy & Practice

- Prior Learning Policy drafted on [June 2022]
- “10 Things to Know About Adult Learners” videos [Nov. 2022]
- Induction Ceremony for Alpha Sigma Lambda [Oct. 2022]

# COLLABORATION IS KEY

*Our Awesome Team*

	<b>Geleana Alston</b> <i>Project Lead &amp; Assoc. Prof of Adult Education</i>		<b>Chelsea Cromartie</b> <i>Project Coordinator</i>
	<b>Tonya Amankwatia</b> <i>Asst. Vice Provost for Distance Ed and Extended Learning</i>		<b>Stephanie Luster-Teasley</b> <i>Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education</i>
	<b>Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho</b> <i>Asst. Prof of School Administration</i>		<b>Dawn Nail</b> <i>Interim Assoc. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management</i>
	<b>Regina Williams Davis</b> <i>Interim Vice Provost for Student Success &amp; University Registrar</i>		<b>Pamela Basheer</b> <i>Asst. Director for Experiential Learning</i>



- Carliss Jacobs, Director -- Aggies at the Goal Line
- Dr. Audrey Dentith – Director for Center of Teaching Excellence
- Dr. Arwin Smallwood – Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Del Ruff -- Executive Diversity and Inclusion Officer

# Thank you

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