The Watson College of Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington enjoys an outstanding reputation, grounded in the excellence of its students, staff, faculty, and community and professional partners. That excellence is reflected in the quality of our undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and in our extensive engagement in the local community and region. There is no place with greater potential than the Watson College to impact the future, and to be great in ways that matter for children, adult learners, families and communities.

While we face daunting and in some ways unprecedented challenges in colleges of education and public education in general, I believe the WCE is positioned well to turn challenges into opportunity. How do we do that? How can we build on success?

• Through the talents, skills and abilities of students, our faculty and staff, and how that is manifested in our teaching, scholarship and engagement.
• Through strong partnerships with schools, school districts, communities and people who live and lead in those communities.
• Through centers that complement the mission and work of our academic programs and extend the work of the Watson College out into the world.
• Through constructive relationships with education policy makers and stakeholders who are central to how we turn challenges into opportunities.
• By staying close to, and learning from, the experiences and successes of our alumni and friends of the Watson College.

What sets the Watson College apart from most colleges and schools of education is its long-standing commitment to serving schools and communities locally and in southeastern North Carolina, coupled with excellence in academic programming. More than two decades ago, WCE established formal school-university partnerships throughout the region, and they now include 12 school districts and two charter schools for a total of 146 schools. Over time that work has grown deeper and broader. Maintaining collaborations of this kind is the result of the efforts of exceptional faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to staying closely engaged with local schools and community agencies, partners and leaders.

This Faculty-Staff Resource Directory provides a listing of many of the areas of study and professional practice in which we are actively engaged, and that undergirds the excellent work noted above. The Directory is intended to serve as a resource for our partners and colleagues in identifying potential Watson College faculty and staff who can collaborate in teaching and learning communities, professional development, scholarship and joint initiatives for educational renewal.

We hope that this directory includes information that will be useful in forging new and better ways to work together. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, etc. that you would like to share with me, please feel free to do so at dempseyv@uncw.edu or (910) 962-3354.

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