

# FORGING THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY





## INFORMATION BRIEF

“ House Select Committee On An Education System For North Carolina’s Future”  
August 29, 2022

...“North Carolina’s only public statewide quasi-military based school.”

# AGENDA

- ▶ MISSION
  - ▶ ORGANIZATION
  - ▶ HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
  - ▶ BASIS FOR CHALLENGE
  - ▶ PROGRAM CONCEPT
  - ▶ PHASES
  - ▶ CORE COMPONENTS
  - ▶ RESULTS
  - ▶ FUNDING
  - ▶ EVALUATIONS
  - ▶ FOUNDATIONS
  - ▶ VALUE
  - ▶ BENEFITS
  - ▶ GOALS AND INITIATIVES
  - ▶ CONCERNS
  - ▶ QUESTIONS
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- ▶ **PURPOSE:** To provide an overview of North Carolina's Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy, Salemburg/New London.
  - ▶ **MISSION:** To improve the life-coping skills and employment potential of North Carolina High School dropouts or expellees so that they may become productive members of their communities and society in general.
  - ▶ **TASK:** Direct, plan, develop, administer, and manage the Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy to include marketing and fundraising to private sector and State.
  - ▶ **END STATE:** To establish North Carolina Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy as a Premier Academy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
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NC  
Governor Cooper

DPS  
Secretary  
Buffaloes

DPS-NG  
MG Hunt

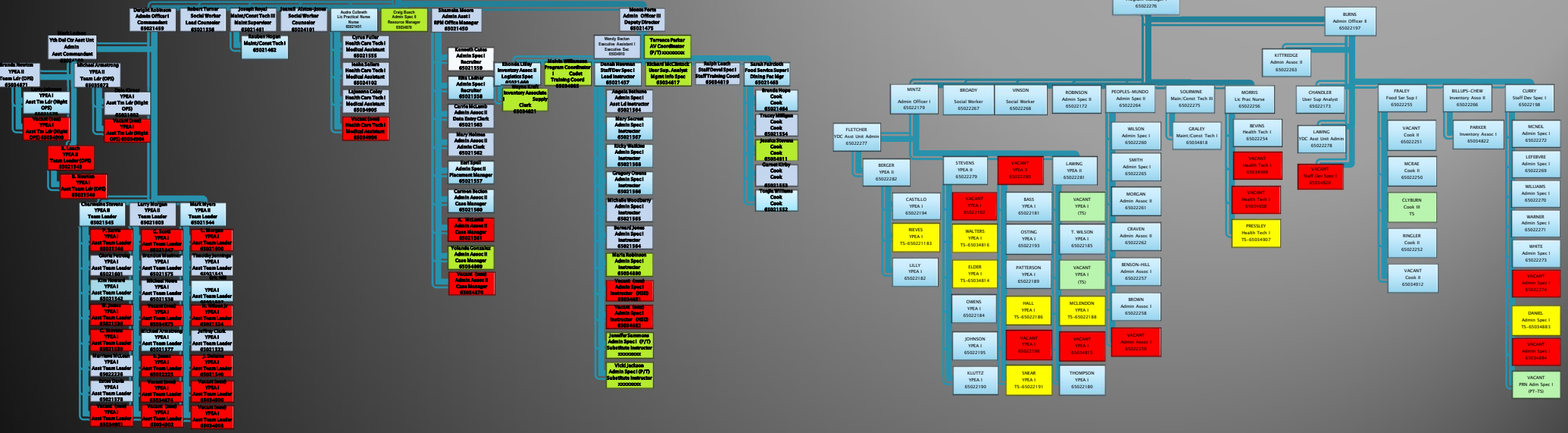
NG-JFHQ  
Deputy Director  
Allen

TCA State  
Director  
Col (RET)  
Timmons


Thomas McCall  
Program Manager I  
Director  
65021195

MESMER  
Program Manager I  
65022276


BURNS  
Admin Officer II  
65022197



# ORGANIZATION

- ▶ Organizational Structure Total: 149 Personnel
  - ▶ Support Staff – 33/32 Personnel:  
Administration, Academic/Education Staff,  
Counselor, Program Coordinator, Trainer,  
Supply, Maintenance, Medical, Support Analysis  
(IT/MISO), Budget Analysis, Recruiter,  
Recruiting Placement Management (RPM)  
Operations
  - ▶ Cadre Staff – 36/26 Personnel
  - ▶ Dining Facility Operations – 6/6
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# PROGRAM HISTORY

- ▶ NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU (NGB) YOUTH PROGRAMS
  - ▶ Center for Strategic & International Studies Report.
  - ▶ Youth Programs & Congressional Mandate began in 1993.
  - ▶ Initial Programs Included ChalleNGe, Starbase, and Youth Conservation Corps.
  - ▶ ChalleNGe has grown to 40 programs in 31 States, and territories: DC and Puerto Rico
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# TARHEEL CHALLENGE ACADEMY



New London, North Carolina



Salemburg, North Carolina

# TARHEEL CHALLENGE ACADEMY

## SALEMBURG

- ▶ Program approved late 1994
- ▶ Sampson County Support
- ▶ Non-Military Installation
- ▶ Partnership with Sampson Community College
- ▶ Class 1: 18 September 1994 – 17 February 1995
- ▶ Moved to Salemburg, NC – July 2001


## NEW LONDON

- ▶ Program approved late 2014
- ▶ New London Support
- ▶ Non-Military Installation
- ▶ Partnership with Stanly Community College
- ▶ Class 1: 15 November 2015 – 26 April 2016


Only 1 of 11 States with 2 or more programs




# BASIS FOR CHALLENGE

- ▶ High School Dropouts
  - ▶ Over 1 million per year nationally
  - ▶ Over 11,190 in North Carolina
  - ▶ 30% unemployed and 24% on welfare
  - ▶ 68% of prison population are dropouts
  - ▶ 1 in 4 babies are born to HS dropouts
  - ▶ 21% of students reported they were in gangs in their schools
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# PROGRAM CONCEPT

- ▶ Volunteer program
  - ▶ Prevention rather than remedial
  - ▶ Targets participants 16–18 years of age who are unemployed, drug free and law-abiding high school dropouts/expellees.
  - ▶ Program provides discipline, education and life skills necessary to be productive members of society.
  - ▶ No Tuition Cost
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# PHASES


- ▶ Residential Phase – 22 Weeks
  - ▶ 2–week Acclimation Phase
  - ▶ 20 weeks of Cadet status
  - ▶ Post Residential Phase – 12 Months
  - ▶ Volunteer Mentors are recruited, screened, trained, and matched to cadets
  - ▶ Monitor results of mentor activities
  - ▶ Unique aspect of ChalleNGe Program
  - ▶ No Tuition Cost
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# CORE COMPONENTS


- ▶ Academic Excellence
  - ▶ Life Coping Skills
  - ▶ Physical Fitness
  - ▶ Job Skills
  - ▶ Service to Community
  - ▶ Health and Hygiene
  - ▶ Responsible Citizenship
  - ▶ Leadership/Followership
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# RESULTS

- ▶ Graduated 6,529 participants from 98 of 100 North Carolina Counties
  - ▶ Awarded 4,067 High School Equivalency Diplomas (GED); 488 Tier 1; 15 Credit Recovery
  - ▶ Contributed 529,469 hours of Services to Communities
  - ▶ 90% of graduates join the work force, enlist in the military or continue education
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# EVALUATIONS

- ▶ Annual Operational Evaluation by AOC Solutions.
  - ▶ Resource Management Evaluation Every Other Year by AOC Solutions.
  - ▶ USP&FO Internal Review Normally on Annual Basis.
  - ▶ Other: State Environmental Health Institution, DPI Nutrition, County Health, Building, Water.
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# FOUNDATIONS

- ▶ National Guard Youth Foundation
    - Congressional Support
    - National Awareness Campaign
    - Corporate Donations
  - ▶ Tarheel Challenge Incorporated (TCI) Salemburg
    - Fund Raisers
    - Scholarships
    - Needs of the Academy Outside of Operations Budget
  - ▶ Tarheel Challenge Association (TCA–NL)
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# PROGRAM FUNDING

Joint Federal and State Funded through Cooperative Agreement

## SALEMBURG

- ▶ 75% Federal (\$3.79M)
- ▶ 25% State (\$1.26M)
- ▶ Other Funding (\$181,463.)
- ▶ Community College
- ▶ USDA Allowance
  
- ▶ Total: \$ 5.2M


## NEW LONDON

- ▶ 75% Federal (\$3.6M)
- ▶ 25% State (\$947K)
- ▶ Other Funding (\$103,960.)
- ▶ Community College
- ▶ USDA Allowance
  
- ▶ Total: \$ 4.9M


Total TCA Budget \$10.1M




# VALUE

- ▶ \$61,407,876 in Federal Funding to North Carolina
  - ▶ 6,529 graduates from 98 of 100 counties
  - ▶ 4,095 High School Equivalency Diplomas awarded
  - ▶ Approximately 441 Enlistments into the Armed Services (includes NC National Guard)
  - ▶ 526,163 hours of Service to the Community in North Carolina
  - ▶ 7,623 Volunteer Mentors recruited and trained
  - ▶ Approximately 54% have enrolled in college or trade schools
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# BENEFITS

- ▶ Motivated youth – 90% are employed, enlisted or in school
  - ▶ Drug, Alcohol, and Smoke free environment
  - ▶ Physically fit through the President's Physical Fitness Award criteria
  - ▶ Volunteerism (Cadets and Mentors)
  - ▶ Life coping skills (Each Cadet designs a written life plan)
  - ▶ Americorps N.C. Membership opportunity
  - ▶ North Carolina Community College student pool after graduation
  - ▶ Economic stimulus to rural Southeastern North Carolina (149 employees)
  - ▶ Positive Community relations (City, County, and Local Churches)
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# GOALS/INITIATIVES/VISION

- ▶ **North Carolina's Solution – High School Dropouts**
  - ▶ Continue current **HSED, Career Pathway–VOTECH, Traditional HS Diploma, Credit Recovery** and potentially CLEP – Virtual Academy
  - ▶ Adding TCA to North Carolina's Statute
  - ▶ Support TCA Tier–1 High School Diploma
  - ▶ Strengthen Post–Residential Placement and Mentoring.
  - ▶ Increase Capacity/Graduation Goals.
  - ▶ Seize Upon Staff Training Opportunities.
  - ▶ Increase Competitive Posture For USO Awards.
  - ▶ To establish North Carolina Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy as a Premier Academy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
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# HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ▶ **Promote Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy**
  - ▶ Support Senate Bill 105, Tarheel ChalleNGe Codification, Article 18 Language in NC Statute as an Alternative Education Program.
  - ▶ Communicate/Pass Information to Potential Families.
  - ▶ Support TCA Tier-1 High School Diploma
  - ▶ Partner with Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.
  - ▶ Receive the High School Dropout List from Area Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/DPI.
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# QUESTIONS



# REFERENCES

- ▶ North Carolina National Guard Youth Challenge State Service Plan, (For the August 2012–July 2013 Program Service Year)
  - ▶ 2006–2007 Contractual Agreement Between The North Carolina National Guard Tarheel Challenge Academy and Sampson County College
  - ▶ Basic Skills Policy & Procedures Manual for Community Colleges, March 2004
  - ▶ North Carolina Community College System, North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) Policies Continuing Education Course Management – Reference Guide
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