

Biographical Sketch

Charles W. Hester, CPA/CFF/FCPA/CFE/CFS/CFIP/CGFM

Charles (Chuck) Hester, Sr. served as the Western District Inspector General and Audit Manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) until his retirement in 1995. Chuck is currently an instructor for various organizations, including Graduate School's Government Audit Training Institute in Washington, DC, and the Pacific Islands Training Institute in Honolulu, HI. Chuck has also taught for the Association of Government Accountants' Education and Research Foundation, the California Association of State Auditors, and various other accounting and auditing professional organizations. In addition, Chuck has served as a Special Consultant for the Asian Development Bank, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau, and for various CPA firms. In addition, Chuck has served as the Team Leader or Team Member for External Peer (Quality Control) Reviews for numerous national, state, and local audit agencies.

Chuck is a member of various professional auditing and accounting organizations and has written several articles that have been published in professional journals. Chuck is Certified in Financial Forensics by the AICPA. In California, Chuck currently serves as member of the Qualifications Committee for the California Board of Accountancy. Chuck has also served on the California State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation. In the past Chuck has served on the Disciplinary Board of the Oregon State Bar and on the Oregon Boards of Geologists, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

Chuck is the recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award from the Graduate School. Chuck has also received numerous other awards including the Jack Birkholz Leadership Award presented by the Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum and the Education and Training Award presented by the National Association of Government Accountants.

November 5, 2015
CharlesHester@msn.com
(925) 969-1563

MICHAEL L. WALDEN

Dr. Michael L. Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist at North Carolina State University and a member of the Graduate Economics faculty with The Poole College of Management. His Ph.D. degree is from Cornell University and he has been at N.C. State since 1978. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Duke University. He also serves as a member of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Board of Economic Advisors.

Dr. Walden has teaching, research, and extension responsibilities at NCSU in the areas of consumer economics, economic outlook, and public policy. He has published eight books and over 250 articles and reports, including the book *North Carolina in the Connected Age*, published by the UNC Press. He has served on several local and state level commissions. With his wife, he is the co-author of three "economic thrillers", *Macro Mayhem*, *Micro Mischief*, and *Fiscal Fiasco*, designed to teach economics in an entertaining way.

Dr. Walden can be frequently seen, heard, and read in the media. He has daily radio programs aired on stations around North Carolina for which he has won two national awards. He is often interviewed on local TV and radio news broadcasts, has appeared on *NBC*, *CBS*, *The Fox Report*, and the *Newshour With Jim Lehrer*, and is frequently quoted in such newspapers as *USA Today*, *The News and Observer*, *The Charlotte Observer*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. His biweekly column, *You Decide*, is carried by over forty newspapers in the state. He has made over 2500 personal presentations.

Dr. Walden directs the semiannual economic forecast, *The North Carolina Economic Outlook*. He has won numerous academic and public awards, including two Champion-Tuck Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting, the UNC Board of Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service in 2010, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2013, and the Holladay Medal for Excellence from North Carolina State University in 2014.

North Carolina State Auditor Beth A. Wood, CPA

Beth Wood is in her second term as North Carolina's elected State Auditor. She is a Certified Public Accountant and long-time public servant with nearly 25 years of auditing experience.

Beth served in the State Auditor's Office for more than a decade before being elected. Before joining the State Auditor's Office, she served in the State Treasurer's Office and in the private sector. She is the first woman elected to the position of State Auditor in North Carolina.

During her tenure, the office has performed audits that would help state leaders cope with the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. Those audits have focused on contracting practices that favored vendors at the expense of taxpayers and changes in agency procedures that have saved the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

In her second term, Beth has produced audits to help strengthen and improve state government. Audit teams across the state are watching every area of state government for potential savings that help make the best use of taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, the office is following up on prior audits, evaluating the use of best practices by state agencies and working to attract and retain highly skilled auditors.

Elizabeth A. Nelson

Dr. Elizabeth A. Nelson is a Teaching Assistant Professor and Director of Public Speaking at North Carolina State University in the Department of Communication. She earned her BAs in English and Communication Studies, as well as her MA, and PhD in Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Elizabeth's areas of interest include the intersection of public address and civic action, connections between identity and social movements, and issues of diversity and inclusion. In addition to cultivating, growing, and teaching in the public speaking program, Elizabeth also teaches classes including advanced presentational speaking, interpersonal communication, gender communication, introductory communication theory courses, and an introductory and advanced class in the Women's and Gender Studies program.



Maria S. Thompson

Maria S. Thompson is the Chief Information Risk Officer and the Chief Information Security Officer for the State of North Carolina.

Maria brings to the State over 20 years of experience in Information Technology and cybersecurity. She served 20 years in the United States Marine Corps and retired as the Cybersecurity Chief/Information Assurance Chief for the Marine Corps. Since then, she has served in numerous security roles such as Certification and Accreditation (C&A) lead for the Multi National Forces – Iraq. There, her primary mission was to conduct Risk Analysis and apply Risk Management for systems and applications entering the Iraq Theater of Operations (ITO) and deployed in support of U.S. missions in Iraq. In addition to C&A, she provided security advisory services to Military Commanders, translating risks to solutions, and driving compliance.

Since then Maria has served in other notable roles, such as a Senior Security Engineer supporting the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIJEDDO) Software Integration Lab and Security Lead and Program Manager (contractor), to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA), Network Security Operations Center. There she oversaw and provided security infrastructure support, threat and vulnerability management and compliance to the EPA's many disparate divisions across the continental United States. Maria was instrumental in helping the Agency through its security infrastructure upgrades and all other cybersecurity strategic initiatives.

Maria earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, University College (UMUC), in Information Systems Management. She also holds a Masters in Information Technology from UMUC. Maria's personal honors include receiving the 2007 National Security Agency's prestigious Rowlett Award for individual achievement in Information Assurance. Additionally, she received the 2008 Office of Secretary of Defense Certificate of Excellence for the implementation of an IA strategy for the Information Assurance Workforce. Maria's currently holds the ISC2 CISSP, ISACA CRISC, National Security Agency IAM/IEM and ITIL v3 certifications.

Tim Brown, CISSP, Sr. IT Security Specialist

As the Cyber Incident Response lead for the DIT Enterprise Security and Risk Management Office, Tim has over 15 years' experience in CyberSecurity. Currently assigned to the local Federal Cyber Task Force working cyber incidents involving state and local government, schools and universities. Previous experience includes supporting IT operations and security in various law enforcement environments for the SBI AFIS deployment as well as the Raleigh Police Department and City-County Bureau of Identification.

Current goals include continued efforts to secure State of North Carolina IT assets in accordance with statewide security standards and working to bring awareness to state employees and agencies on the needs to better secure systems and networks against the cyber threats and vulnerabilities we face every day.

Certifications:

CISSP

Edu:

BA NC Wesleyan

AAS Wake Tech