



Meet your Chamber board members

Williford, Kelly and Houston

FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN THIS SPACE, the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce is honored to introduce you to our board of directors. Thank you to our board members for their hard work and dedication to the Chamber and its members!

— Craig Hill, Executive Director, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce



April Houston, board member

April Houston joined Raising Awareness for the Developmentally Disabled — RADD, Inc. — in June, 2019 as executive director.

Before joining RADD, she worked for Lenoir County Public Schools and the Family Support Network of the Crystal Coast. She studied Early Childhood Education at Lenoir Community College and is a proud graduate of Partners in Policymaking (for the special needs community of North Carolina).

Later in life, she attended Brigham Young University-Idaho where she majored in Marriage, Family & Human Relations and minored in Home & Family Studies. She entered the special needs and advocacy field due to personal reasons that are near and dear to her heart — she and her husband have three children that happen to have different diagnoses where she needed to learn how to care and advocate for them.

“I enjoy serving in my community,” she said. “I am a Guardian ad Litem for Lenoir County, currently the first female president of the Pink Hill Ruritan Club, president of the Southeast District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association, vice president of the Lenoir County Master Gardeners and am on many other boards and committees throughout Lenoir & Greene Counties.”

She is also a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

“When I am not working, you can usually find me on our small homestead in Deep Run where we have chickens, dairy goats, pigs and produce gardens,” she said. “Playing outside with baby goats can fix any type of day you are having!”

“If I am not there, I am probably at one of my kid’s schools cheering them on while they run cross country, play basketball or march in the band.”

Jeffrey Williford, Vice President of Special Projects

Jeffrey Williford is a Kinston native; he studied marketing and fine arts while attending Wayne Community College in Goldsboro.

He joined Belk in 1998 in our Kinston location. While in Kinston, he held multiple positions, from sales associate to area sales manager. He later moved into virtual merchandising.

Williford was eventually promoted to visual manager at Belk Southpark Durham and was promoted to the same position of the Belk Southpark flagship store in Charlotte.

Wanting to return closer to home, he was promoted to assistant store manager of Belk Mayfaire in Wilmington.

He returned home to Lenoir County to accept the promotion of Belk Kinston store manager in May 2019.

Williford serves as an Elder in his church at First Presbyterian



in Kinston.

He enjoys all the food and activities here in Kinston along with seeing friends and family.

“I’m so lucky to serve the community that I grew up in,” Williford said. “So many customers I’ve known for

many years come to see me at Belk.”

Tammy D. Kelly, Vice President of Agri-Business

Tammy D. Kelly, Ed.D., is the county extension director at the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension Office.

She was raised on a tobacco farm in Newport and attended North Carolina State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Horticultural Science, a Master of Science in Extension Education and Doctorate in Education.

She has spent 31 years with the N.C. Cooperative Extension — 14 as a 4-H Agent in Franklin County and 17 years as the county extension director in Lenoir County.

For the past several years, her passion has been in the area of local foods and the revitalization of the Lenoir County Farmers Market.



Through grants and private donations, she has raised more than \$387,000 for improvements at the market including new restrooms, a paved parking area and to complete a community/commercial kitchen in the Market Annex.

Kelly writes the foods,

nutrition and recipe articles for the lifestyle section of The Free Press; the articles are also published in the New Bern Sun Journal, The Daily News of Jacksonville and for the online site, Neuse News.

She serves as vice president of agriculture for the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce board of directors and is the chair of the Wil King Hog Happenin’, (the largest Whole Hog competition festival in North Carolina and South Carolina), and is coordinator for the N.C. Pork Council Whole Hog State Competition.

PRESIDENT’S CLUB

These members choose to make a higher-level financial investment in the Chamber. The support of these businesses helps the Chamber realize its vision.

PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBER:

Crown
Spirit AeroSystems

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS:

Down East Protection Systems
Duke Energy
Electrolux
The Free Press
UNC Lenoir Health Care

SILVER LEVEL MEMBERS:

City of Kinston
CopyPro, Inc.
ElectriCities of N.C., Inc.
First Citizens Bank & Trust Co.
GOECO
Harmony Hall Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Harvey Fertilizer & Gas
Herald Office Solutions
Heritage Elite Estate
Judy O. Jones, State Farm Insurance
Lenoir Community College
Lions Industries for the Blind
Minges Bottling Group, Inc.
Perry Management
Principle Long Term Care
State Employees Credit Union
Union Bank
Wells Fargo
West Pharmaceuticals Services, Inc.

The Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce

presents

Women’s Business Forum

April 6, 2021
12-1:30 p.m. at The Exchange
121 West Gordon Street, Kinston

Admission is \$20
(includes a box lunch from Queen Street Deli)

featuring



Tonya Adams



Alison Merritt



Jaimie Spruill



Richy Huneycutt, Emcee

Meet three of Kinston’s top businesswomen and hear their stories of working in the business world, their challenges and more. Q&A will follow.

To make your reservation, please call 252-527-1131 or email lindaw@kinstonchamber.com

Seating is limited!
Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be in place.

