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Left to Right: Margaret Rada, Senior Learning Consultant with Instructure; Dave Dick, Senior Learning Consultant II at Instructure; (Center) Nichole Pitchford, Director of Distance Learning at Halifax Community College; and Jaime Jackson, Learning Consultant at Instructure.

Halifax Community College Director of Distance Learning Attends Statewide Online Learning Innovations Summit

WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA – Halifax Community College's (HCC) Director of Distance Learning, Nichole Pitchford, recently participated in the 2026 North Carolina Community College System Online Learning Innovations Summit, held June 16–18 at Cross Creek Country Club in Mount Airy. The annual event brought together faculty, instructional leaders, and higher education professionals from all 58 North Carolina community colleges to explore emerging trends and innovations in digital teaching and learning.

Hosted by the North Carolina Community College System's Virtual Learning Community (VLC), this year's summit centered on the theme "Transitioning the Great 58," highlighting the systemwide transition to the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS), the growing role of artificial intelligence in education, student engagement strategies, workforce-focused credential completion, digital branding, accessibility, and other innovations designed to enhance teaching and learning.





Throughout the three-day conference, participants attended keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and collaborative discussions focused on equipping educators with practical tools and strategies to improve the online learning experience for students. The summit also provided updates on statewide initiatives and opportunities for networking with colleagues from across North Carolina.

Pitchford said attending the summit strengthened Halifax Community College's preparation for the upcoming transition to Canvas, the new learning management system that will be implemented across all 58 North Carolina community colleges.

"The Online Learning Innovations Summit provided valuable insight into the future of digital education and reinforced the importance of creating engaging, accessible learning environments for our students," said Pitchford. "As Halifax Community College prepares for our transition to Canvas, I am excited to implement new ideas, best practices, and practical strategies that will help support our faculty and ensure a smooth transition for both instructors and students."

As part of a statewide initiative, the North Carolina Community College System selected Canvas to provide a unified learning management system across all 58 community colleges. The transition is intended to create greater consistency, collaboration, and sustainability while enhancing the teaching and learning experience for faculty and students statewide. More details and FAQs can be found on the system office's Transition to Canvas website: [NCCCS Transition to Canvas LMS](#).

For faculty, Canvas offers a modern, intuitive interface that simplifies course management, supports flexible course design, improves grading and feedback tools, enhances communication with students, and integrates seamlessly with a wide range of instructional technologies. Students will benefit from a consistent course navigation experience across the state, mobile-friendly access to coursework, improved communication with instructors, easier access to learning materials, and greater visibility of assignments and grades.

The transition is designed to strengthen, not change, the way faculty teach by providing innovative tools that support instruction, accessibility, and student success while ensuring Halifax Community College remains aligned with statewide initiatives and best practices in online education.

Halifax Community College remains committed to embracing innovative technologies that enhance student success and ensure faculty have the resources needed to deliver high-quality instruction in both traditional and online learning environments.

Halifax Community College's Mission

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

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