



## Careers in Business, STEM, & PUBLIC SERVICE Employer Panel & Reception

Burrell Building, Conference Center, Monday, November 14, 2016, Noon-1:30PM

*For students interested in developing sought-after soft skills, understanding application and hiring processes, and preparing for success in a variety of fields, real employers will share wisdom from their own careers. This program offers an opportunity for any degree and job seeker as well as college transfer students looking for early opportunities to explore and prepare for careers. Much of this insider advice and wisdom will be transferable to any field or workplace.*

### AGENDA

#### **12:00-1:00-Panel Discussion**

- Introductions: Michael Despeaux, Career Planning and Placement Coordinator
- Moderator: William Brothers, Dean of Career Technologies
- Panelists:
  - Dean Coward
  - John Edgemon
  - Danell Moses
  - Brad Waldrop

#### **1:00-1:30-Reception, Food, and Informal Discussions with Panelists and Faculty**

### PANELISTS

**Dean Coward** has been a sole practitioner with his own CPA practice in Sylva since July, 1985. He graduated from WCU and passed his CPA exam 1979. Prior to opening his own firm, he worked for what is now a regional CPA firm, Dixon Hughes Goodman, and he served as an internal auditor at both WCU and a local law firm. In his spare time, Dean has worked as a volunteer fireman for 35 years and assistant chief of a department in Jackson County, and he has served as treasurer and board member for various non-profit organizations.

**John Edgemon** is the General Manager at Franklin Tubular Products and has been in manufacturing for almost 30 years at companies like Federal Mogul Corporation, Mack Trucks, INA USA, Apex Tool Group, and Trane. After starting as a machinist, he was promoted to supervisory positions for various units, served as director of operations for a whole plant, and elevated to plant manager at two companies. John began his bachelor's degree at the age of 28, worked full-time, and finished in 3½ years. He is responsible for all aspects of business at Franklin Tubular Products, including human resources, finance, operations, engineering, materials, quality, sales and customer service.

**Danell Moses** first came to Southwestern Community College as a student in the 1980s. She then attended WCU where she floundered in finding a major, but loved being the office manager of the university newspaper. In Germany, she was again an office manager for the Army. Later, she earned a BSBA degree in marketing from WCU. She worked for a project management publishing company for 5 years, first as the office manager then as the lead marketing coordinator. So that she could teach marketing, she went back to WCU and got a master's degree in teaching at a two-year college and taught at WCU for 3 years after again working at the newspaper – but this time as the editor. Danell currently teaches in SCC's business department, coordinates the office administration and medical office administration programs, serves as the faculty senate president, and is the Office Manager and Vice-Mayor for the Town of Webster.

**Brad Waldrop** graduated from Smoky Mountain High 1994 and the WCU in 1998 with a BSBA in marketing. He worked in sales and management from 1998-2000 with World Micro Components, a distributor of electronic components. In 2001, he co-founded Falcon Solutions an Atlanta, GA-based worldwide distributor of electronic components. He helped grow this company from inception to 30+ employees and \$9m+ in annual revenue from 2001-2008. From 2009-2013, he raised capital and helped manage the construction of spec homes and renovations for "flip sales" for Full Circle Vision, an Atlanta-based home builder. Then, from 2013-2014 he assisted in the start-up of Surefly Mobile, an Atlanta-based text message marketing company. Since 2014, Brad has served as the President and General Manager of Ward Plumbing & Heating in Sylva.