



N.C. Global Advantage Forum to Focus on Global Leadership, Global Business, and Adaptive Leadership in a Global Arena

Presented by the NC Coalition for Global Competitiveness, this year's premier event will feature national experts, CEOs, and state government leaders to foster thought leadership and vision for global opportunities

Raleigh, NC, Oct. 15, 2020 - Leaders from business, education, health care, government, policy and non-profits will join together for the second annual NC Global Advantage Forum (Forum 2020) on Nov. 13 at 1 p.m. The Forum is a virtual half-day of thought-provoking exchanges focused on global opportunities in education, workforce development, economic and community development and entrepreneurship to ensure North Carolina is the most globally engaged state in the US. The event is presented by the [NC Coalition for Global Competitiveness](#) (the Coalition). The inaugural Forum last year included a cross-section of more than 160 statewide leaders focused on global competitiveness.

Forum 2020, themed "Building on Our Legacy & Planning for Our Future," will be keynoted by Liz Schrayner, President and CEO of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC). The USGLC brings together more than 500 businesses and NGOs that advocate for strong U.S. global leadership through development and diplomacy. Under Ms. Schrayner's leadership, the USGLC has grown to a nationwide network of advocates in all 50 states, including a bipartisan Advisory Council, chaired by General Colin Powell, that includes every living former Secretary of State and a National Security Advisory Council consisting of nearly 200 retired three-star and four-star generals and admirals.

Featured speaker, Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Chief Global Officer – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will share her commitment to facilitating the exchange of ideas to constructively address complex global solutions from her experience as a distinguished diplomat, retired ambassador, and prior dean of the Leadership and Management School at the Foreign Service Institute.

Forum 2020 will also feature panels focused on global leadership and business. "Adaptive Leadership in the Global Arena," features Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, Secretary – NC Dept. of Health and Human Services; Tsegga Medhin, Founder – Pearl Leadership Institute and President – UN Women USA, NC Chapter; Paul Weisenfeld, EVP, International Development – RTI International. "Global Business in North Carolina" features Madhu Beriwal, President and CEO – IEM. The panels will be moderated, respectively, by Nick Tennyson, former Secretary - NC Dept. of Transportation and former Mayor – City of Durham; and John Loyack, VP, Global Business Services – Economic Development Partnership NC.

During Forum 2020, NC Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall will receive the 2020 John A. "Pete" Eberhart Ray of Light award. Marshall is being honored for decades of work advancing North Carolina's global competitiveness and her profound impact on businesses, students, educators and communities throughout the state. The Ray of Light award recognizes individuals who exemplify Boundless Impact's vision of building thriving communities that are intentionally diverse, inclusive and equitable. It will be presented by Felix Muriithi, board chair of Boundless Impact, and Tom White, board member or Boundless Impact and vice chair of the Coalition.

Forum 2020 is presented by the [Coalition](#) and organized by [Go Global NC](#). Sponsors include RTI International as well as Novozymes North America Inc., North Carolina's Southeast, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Participate Learning, SBTDC, and YellowWood Group.

For more information about Forum 2020 or to register, please visit <https://goglobalinc.org/ncglobaladvantageforum/>.

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About the NC Coalition for Global Competitiveness

The [NC Coalition for Global Competitiveness](#) (the Coalition) is a partnership of private and public sector leaders from a variety of industries, agencies, and educational institutions from all over North Carolina that works to foster thought leadership and serves as a catalyst for a statewide vision for global engagement. The Coalition, convened by Go Global NC, focuses on optimizing North Carolina's global engagement through a comprehensive approach, including FDI, trade and workforce development to generate jobs and opportunities and create an environment for success in the global economy.

The Coalition developed the [N.C. Blueprint for Global Engagement](#) and [N.C.'s Global Engagement Snapshot](#), a road map and an online tool, to track the state's path and progress toward global engagement. North Carolina is the first state to develop a roadmap for global engagement across all sectors – education, business, government, and community.

About Go Global NC

Go Global NC, part of the University of North Carolina System since 1979, designs and manages programs that build the capacity of policy leaders, educators, students, and business and community leaders to enable North Carolina to succeed in a global economy and increasingly interdependent world. Visit goglobalinc.org to learn how Go Global NC connects North Carolina and the world.