

Brian Etheridge  
President  
Leadership North Carolina

Brian Etheridge has served as president of Leadership North Carolina since March of 2006. He is the fourth chief executive of the organization. As President, Etheridge guides Leadership North Carolina in accomplishing its mission by providing the guidance, organization, communication, and vision necessary to maintain and grow the institution and its program curriculum.

Leadership North Carolina is amid the implementation of a three-year strategic plan with four primary areas of focus: Strengthen Capacity, Engage Alumni, Reflect North Carolina's Diversity, and Increase Awareness. The organization's 10-year vision is by 2030, Leadership North Carolina is recognized as the premier organization for mobilizing cross-sector influencers across all 100 counties to lead North Carolina forward.

To maintain the high caliber program participants have come to expect, Etheridge leads a Program Committee to develop the curriculum that is consistent with the mission of the organization. Etheridge works to ensure that the six monthly, two-day sessions give class members a broader understanding and appreciation of the State, with a focus on issues in the topical areas of Economic Development, Education, Environment, Government, and Health/Human Services.

Etheridge fosters and maintains effective relationships with corporate and individual sponsors, businesses, public officials, community and business leaders, government organizations, public policy interest groups, other non-profit organizations, and the media by serving as the main ambassador for the organization. He continues to seek out methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Leadership North Carolina and its programs, and to expand revenue sources through grants, in-kind service for the organization, corporate and individual sponsors, and other creative sources of revenue.

In addition to his duties related to the Leadership North Carolina program, Etheridge also engages the more than 1,300 alumni through special events and alumni opportunities that build on the knowledge gained during the LNC experience.

Prior to joining LNC, Etheridge served as director of the Independent College Fund of North Carolina, a division of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. He cultivated partnerships with the state's corporate and foundation communities to raise funds for student scholarship aid on behalf of 27 private colleges across North Carolina and advocated for access to higher education.

A native of Lillington, Etheridge earned his bachelor's degree in education from The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, is a past member of the UNCW Board of Visitors, and a current member of the Watson College of Education Dean's Advancement Council. Following graduation, he was a classroom teacher at Sunset Park Elementary in New Hanover County and Timber Drive Elementary in Wake County.

In addition to his work with Leadership North Carolina, Etheridge is a proud Eagle Scout and serves on the Advisory Board of the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Brian is a past member of the Y Guides Advisory Board, a program of the YMCA of the Triangle dedicated to the relationship between fathers and their sons and daughters.

Brian is a member of Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Etheridge is a board member of Sunday Supper, a nonprofit committed to building connections and bridging divides through shared community meals, all while providing targeted relief from Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

Brian, his wife Meredith Sparrow Etheridge and their three children reside in Raleigh.