

Editorial Contact

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Edward Carney named new chairman of MCNC Board of Directors

Technology nonprofit starts new fiscal year with new era of leadership

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (Aug. 3, 2017) – [MCNC](http://mcnc.org), the non-profit operator of the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), today announced that Edward Carney has been named the new chairman of the MCNC Board of Directors, succeeding Tom Rabon to start of the organization's new fiscal year that began on July 1.

Rabon took over as chairman in 2012 and was instrumental in leading the organization through the completion of the \$144 million Golden LEAF Rural Broadband Initiative as well as a period of great fiscal and networking growth on NCREN.

"Tom has been a champion for MCNC through a period of tremendous accomplishments. His focus, passion and commitment to this demanding volunteer role has benefited every citizen in North Carolina the last five years," said MCNC President and CEO Jean Davis. "We look forward to welcoming Ed into this role; he will be an incredible asset for us to continue driving broadband innovation and connectivity in our communities."

Carney has more than 30 years of experience leading research and development, and customer support teams. His experience includes general management at Cisco Systems in Research Triangle Park, where he spent 15 years, and prior to that with IBM. At Cisco, he was vice president of the Networked Solutions Integration Test Engineering laboratory and was the senior executive for its RTP site. At IBM, he directed engineering for the IBM Global Network. Currently, he is chief executive officer and director at Qualia Networks, Inc., an Internet of Things innovation company based in North Carolina that produces wireless sensor networking for critical applications of machine intelligence.

Carney serves or has served on the boards of several organizations throughout the North Carolina community, including: Immediate Past Chairman, Board of Directors for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina; Industrial Advisory Board for NC State University's College of Engineering; Board of Directors for the NC Chamber; Board of Directors for the North Carolina Defense and Security Technology Accelerator; the Board of the National Veterans Freedom Park; and the Advisory Board of the Eisenhower Fellowship. Carney holds a BS in Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

"I first want to thank Tom for his example of leadership in his role as chairman. I will work hard to live up to the standard that he's set," said Carney. "I look forward to working with an amazing team and inspirational leader in Jean Davis to continue serving the networking needs of North Carolina."

Hope Williams, president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, has been named the new vice chairman. Curtis Wynn, president and chief executive of Roanoke Electric Coop, also joins the 13-member MCNC board.

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In other board responsibility shifts, Dr. Joe B. Whitehead, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at North Carolina A&T State University, is the new chair of the MCNC Nominating and Governance Committee, and Dr. Peter J. Kragel, professor and chairman of the Department of Pathology at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University also joins the committee. Carney also replaces Tom Rabon as Executive Committee Chair. View the full list of [MCNC Board of Directors](#) and their individual biographies.

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About MCNC

MCNC, a technology nonprofit that builds, owns and operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN), has served research, education, non-profit health care and other community institutions with Internet connectivity in the state for more than 30 years. NCREN is the fundamental broadband infrastructure for more than 500 of these institutions including all K-20 education in North Carolina. As one of the nation's premier middle-mile networks, MCNC leverages high-speed fiber on NCREN to customize Internet services and related applications for each customer while supporting private service providers in bringing cost-efficient connectivity to rural and underserved communities in North Carolina. Visit www.mcnc.org. MCNC Social: [Facebook](#), Twitter [@MCNC](#), [YouTube](#), [Google+](#), [LinkedIn](#).

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