



# QUEEN CITY SCHOLARS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Serving students in West Charlotte High School in 2020. We are committed to Charlotte because of the legacy and family of our founding Board Chair, Paul H. Harrell, Jr. and because Dr. Tony Alleyne began his career in education with Teach for America, Charlotte at Martin Luther King Middle School in the Hidden Valley neighborhood. Thus, the program expansion to Charlotte aligns perfectly for DCS.

## Meet the Advisory Council:

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**Tony Alleyne**  
Executive Director, Queen City Scholars

Dr. Tony Alleyne currently serves as the founder and Executive Director of Delaware College Scholars (DCS). Tony also brings an additional ten years of experience in higher education including teaching middle school through Teach for America in Charlotte, NC. Tony is an Afro-Latino, first-generation college student originally from Brooklyn, NY. After Tony's matriculation from Wesleyan University, Tony received his master's degree from The Teacher's College at Columbia University. While Tony taught as a history teacher and counselor at his alma mater, the St. Andrew's School, Tony enrolled and received an Ed.D in Education Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and achieved honors distinction for his dissertation.



**Johanna Anderson**  
Chief Impact Officer, Broward Grove

Johanna Anderson serves as Chief Impact Officer for Broward Grove, a professional services firm that provides strategic leadership, governance, planning and advisory services to families who are committed to being effective stewards of capital across generations. Prior to joining Broward Grove in August 2022, Johanna served for nearly 13 years as the first Executive Director of The Belk Foundation, a private family foundation based in Charlotte, NC. Johanna has an undergraduate degree in Public Policy Studies from Duke University and an MBA from Wake Forest University. She and her husband have two young daughters and live in Charlotte, NC.



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**Sarah Belk**  
Community Volunteer  
& Board Member

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Sarah Belk is a community volunteer in Charlotte NC, Sarah currently serves on the board of the Charlotte Merchants Foundation and the Advisory Board of the HopeWay Foundation. She previously served on the boards of the Urban Ministry Center (now Roof Above), the Anne Springs Close Greenway, the Wing Haven Garden and Bird Sanctuary, and the former Children's Home Society of NC. the Wing Haven Garden and Bird Sanctuary, and the Children's Home Society of NC. From 2010 to 2016, Sarah co-founded and ran the Common Grounds Farm Stand, with proceeds going to Charlotte's Urban Ministry Center.



**Thomas M "Tim" Belk Jr.**  
Chief Executive Officer of Belk, Inc.

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Thomas M. "Tim" Belk Jr. is the retired chairman and chief executive officer of Belk, Inc. Tim currently serves on the boards of The Orvis Company, Elements Brands, and Gas Fired Products. He also serves on the boards of the Belk Foundation and the Good Fellows Club. He served on the board of the Carolina Thread Trail and is chairing the Advisory Board Charlotte Working Farms Fund. He is the recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Distinguished Eagle Award, and the Distinguished Citizens Award.



**Kristin Bradberry**  
Partner, Greenway Group LLC &  
Board Member

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Kristin Hills Bradberry She is currently the Chair of the Board of the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Endowment. After working at the University of Richmond, she served her alma mater, Davidson College, as Vice President for College Relations, she was the campaign director for the Arts and Science Council. Since 2010, Kristin has worked as an advisor for non-profits on fundraising strategy and for philanthropists on meaningful and strategic giving.



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**Sherri Chisholm**  
Executive Director of  
Leading on Opportunity

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Sherri Chisholm joined Leading on Opportunity as its new Executive Director in September 2020. She has worked in senior leadership at national nonprofits and major school districts across the country, where she drove transformation through strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, and leadership development. Prior to joining Leading on Opportunity, Sherri served as the founding Executive Director of Urban Alliance Detroit. Sherri holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Studies and Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Arts degree in Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education; and a Master of Arts degree in Education Leadership from the Los Angeles-based Broad Center for the Management of School Systems.

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**Mike Harrell**  
Partner at Beacon Partners

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Since joining Beacon Partners in 1996, Mike has served in a variety of development and asset management roles at Beacon. Today, Mike focuses on office, retail and mixed-use development and has spearheaded some of Charlotte's major mixed use development projects including The RailYard, The Square and The Station. Mike has served as past president of The Charlotte Commercial Board of Realtors as well as many other non-profit board of directors including Communities In Schools, Smart Start, and Children And Family Services Center. He is also one of the founders of "Janes Fund," a nonprofit dedicated to providing financial support to families experiencing personal hardship.

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**Lise Hain**  
Community Leader

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Lise Hain is a community leader, she has served in leadership roles on multiple boards. Lise was a founding funder of GreenLight Charlotte and continues to serve on the Greenlight Selection Advisory Council. She has also served on the boards of Children's Theatre Charlotte and Freedom School Partners. As the parent of three St. Andrew's School alumni, she brings a deep appreciation for the foundation of the Queen City Scholars program through Delaware College Scholars and has experience with higher education through her service on both the Davidson College and the Elon University Parents Councils. Lise brings an entrepreneurial spirit and contagious optimism to all her community work.



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**Sam L. Smith Jr**  
**Executive Director of Greenlight**  
**Fund**

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Sam L. Smith Jr. is a dynamic leader, currently, he serves as the Executive Director of GreenLight Fund Charlotte. Previously, at the United Way of Central Carolinas, he managed the Unite Charlotte fund. Mr. Smith has been recognized for his contributions, including the 2022 Charlotte Business Journal's "40 under 40" honor. He is an active community advocate, volunteering and serving on various nonprofit boards. He's also involved in civic committees, such as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Citizen Review Board. In addition to his community work, Mr. Smith is the founder of Tailored Career Coaching. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, an MBA, and certificates in Nonprofit Management and Corporate Citizenship Practice. His diverse skill set and dedication benefit the communities he serves.