

NC Chamber

84th Annual Leadership Dinner & Awards

MARCH 26, 2026 | CARY, NC

Jule Smith
President and CEO, Construction Partners, Inc.
Chair, NC Chamber Board

Fred Julius “Jule” Smith, III, grew up in Johnston County, NC. After graduating from Clayton High School, he attended Wake Forest University and earned a bachelor’s degree in history as well as an MBA.



Mr. Smith began his career with Fred Smith Company in 1992 and continues today as the President and CEO of FSC’s parent company Construction Partners, Inc. He served in the United States Navy from 2004-2012 as a Supply Corps Officer and today serves on the board for the NC Chamber, North State Bank, and St. David’s School.

Mr. Smith and his wife, Alisa, live in Raleigh and enjoy precious family time with their four high-energy children: Ardyn, Lila, Julius, and Gabriel.

Cozza continued his career at various logistics companies, relocating with his family to multiple states. Each opportunity brought increasing responsibility culminating with a CEO position with a privately held Canadian global supply chain company.

In April 2014, Cozza was called back to North Carolina to be executive director of the North Carolina State Ports Authority. Under Cozza’s leadership, N.C. Ports set new records in volume growth and profits each year. In the six years of Cozza’s leadership, the organization had combined profits that exceeded the total profit generation from the preceding 50 years.

Cozza now serves as a board member with privately held firms, teaches supply chain management at UNC Wilmington, and coaches retiring senior military personnel as they leave service. He has been married for 38 years and has two grown daughters. He enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors hiking with his wife as often as possible.