

AN NC CHAMBER EVENT

# Business Summit on Mental Health

MAY 13, 2025  
DURHAM, NC

**Anita R. Brown-Graham**  
**Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law & Government**  
**UNC School of Government (SOG)**



Anita R. Brown-Graham, Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Professor of Public Law & Government, and Director of nclMPACT. Anita is the founder and director of the nclMPACT Initiative at the UNC School of Government (SOG), a special initiative that seeks to expand the School's capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues, including economic mobility and broadening the labor pool. She also leads Carolina Across 100 (CX100), a pan-university effort to partner with communities in each of North Carolina's 100 counties. This five-year initiative responds to requests that the campus build and support community collaborations to address current challenges, primarily through cross-sector collaboration.

The first program of Carolina Across 100 focused on young adults. The second program focused on mental health and suicide prevention. The overlap was considerable.

Anita previously taught at the SOG from 1994 to 2006, specializing in governmental liability and economic development aimed at revitalizing communities. In 2007, Anita served as director of the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University, where she led efforts to build North Carolina's capacity for economic development and prosperity, working with business, government, and higher education leaders from across the state.

Anita began her career as a law clerk in the Eastern District of California. She is a William C. Friday Fellow, an American Marshall Fellow, and an Eisenhower Fellow. The White House named her a 2013 Champion of Change for her work at IEI, and the Triangle Business Journal named her both a 2014 Woman in Business for her policy leadership in the state and a 2017 CEO of the year. Anita serves on the boards of several organizations, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina. She earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.