



AN NC CHAMBER EVENT

## Conference on Education

AUGUST 20, 2019 | DURHAM, NC

**Dr. Sherry Hicks**  
**Career and Technical Education Director**  
**Asheville City Schools**



Dr. Sherry Whitesides Hicks is passionate about preparing young minds for the modern workforce. A product of Asheville City Schools from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, Dr. Hicks is proud to give back to the district by serving as the director of Career & Technical Education. Prior to her current role, she served as the district's career development coordinator/special populations coordinator where she facilitated work-based learning opportunities and ensured that all students received appropriate accommodations throughout the semester. Additionally, she was Asheville High School's Grades 11 and 12 Assistant Principal and the administrator over the Career & Technical Education Department from August 2016-January 2018.

Dr. Hicks' diverse work experience in both education and corporate settings has allowed her to view the workforce and education through a unique lens. After an eight-year stint in marketing for the leading global technology company, IBM, Dr. Hicks made a career change to education. Dr. Hicks began her career in education as a Life Science Teacher at Houston, Texas' Hambrick Middle School in the Aldine Independent School District in 2007. She merged her organizational, communications, and relationship-building skills from the workforce with her master's coursework in counseling to help students understand why a solid educational foundation is the gateway to a great job. Her work with a community organization, the ARK (Adults Relating to Kids) Dropout Prevention Program in the Aldine school district was widely praised. She also served as a campus co-sponsor and liaison to Bonding Against Adversity (BAA), an outreach program for disadvantaged residents in the Aldine Community. While in Texas, Dr. Hicks also taught as an adjunct professor preparing adults for the GED examination.

Dr. Hicks earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as well as her master's degree in counseling from Capella University. In 2009, she earned a post master's certificate in diversity studies. She received her Ph.D. in education with a specialization in leadership in education administration from Capella University in 2014. She is an active member of the North Carolina Career & Education Association and the Association for Career & Technical Education. She currently serves on the boards of the YWCA of Asheville and Delta House Life Development, Inc. She is also actively involved in the Asheville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Outside of work, Dr. Hicks enjoys reading, sewing, traveling with her husband, Edgar, and stepdaughter, Dari. Her son, Patrick Poole, is a rising Senior at Stephen F. Austin State University.