

"With all the challenges COVID is placing on our schools, it is more important than ever for non-profits to step up to support young people outside of school hours. MeckEd has an excellent history of adapting and serving and I look forward to working with them to keep our most vulnerable youth building toward a successful future."

Since 2012, MeckEd's Career Pathways initiative has provided job shadows, career exploration and exposure for over 12,000 high school students. In December 2016, in partnership with of the office of the Mayor, and with the support of the Gambrell Family Foundation, then Mayor Jennifer Roberts and MeckEd President Dr. Ross Danis announced the launch of Charlotte NEXT. Charlotte NEXT's mission is to ensure that all young people in Mecklenburg County have access to enrichment experiences outside of the traditional school day.

Ross Danis said, "Jennifer Roberts brings an extraordinary combination of experience, expertise, and passion to her role as Chair of the Board."

Roberts follows Keith Butler, Senior Vice President, Duke Energy, who served as

chair between July 1, 2018 and July 1, 2020. Butler said, "Jennifer Roberts will excel as Chair of the Board and I believe she will take MeckEd to new levels of success and impact."

Roberts was raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. She graduated from <u>East</u> <u>Mecklenburg High School</u> in 1978, and went on to attend the <u>University of North</u> <u>Carolina at Chapel Hill</u> on a <u>Morehead Scholarship</u>. Roberts earned two master's degrees in international affairs from <u>Johns Hopkins University</u> and from the <u>University of Toronto</u>.

Our Mission

To ensure that ALL students in Mecklenburg County have access to the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to lead productive, successful lives.

> Get Involved! Donate Directly To Us! Donate Through Our AmazonSmile!

> > **Our mailing address is:** 5104 Reagan Drives, Suite 12 Charlotte, NC 28206

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