

## Register NOW for Schul Forum 2025



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# URBAN INSTITUTE REGIONAL DATA TRUST

**2025  
Schul Forum**  
Community Data Day

**Thursday, April 3**  
**11:30-5 p.m.**

**The Dubois Center**  
at UNC Charlotte  
Center City

MARIANNE W. & NORMAN W.  
Schul Forum Series

URBAN INSTITUTE  
REGIONAL DATA TRUST

[ui.charlotte.edu](http://ui.charlotte.edu)

We swim now in rivers of data - more than we can comprehend, much less use.

We are often swimming upstream, contending not only with the inherent complexity of the challenges we face, but increasingly with the force of misinformation and disinformation on the topics that matter most to our communities. Much of the data and information flowing around us isn't immediately applicable to our organizational or community contexts. The raw data needs interpretation and application; the information needs fact-checked. Despite being immersed, we often ask *so what?!* or seek a guide as we navigate crowded and unfamiliar waterways.

**On Thursday, April 3, the Charlotte Urban Institute will host the 2025 Schul Forum as a Community Data Day at The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City. Pre-forum Lunch & Learn sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the Forum begins at 1 p.m.** Participants will have an opportunity to learn, provide feedback, and connect local data to why it matters for Charlotte and our region. .

Whether you are a strong swimmer or you prefer a motorized ride up the ever swelling river of information, we cordially invite you to join us in asking *so what?! – a question that enables us to explore how data and research can be used to make a difference in our lives and our communities.*

Here's what attendees can expect:

- **Use Our Tools** - These pre-forum Lunch & Learn sessions will provide

participants an opportunity to create logic models that connect their organization's work to a measurable *so what?!* Participants will also learn to use the [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Quality of Life Explorer](#) for a local organization or neighborhood data walk, to use the data in the [Charlotte Regional Data Trust](#) or become a data partner, or to weigh in on the development of the Carolinas Regional Explorer. Pre-forum sessions will begin at 11:30 a.m. with check-in beginning at 11 a.m.

- **Posters at the opening and closing receptions** - The posters will highlight local research and evaluation completed by Gambrell Faculty Fellows, Institute researchers, and our community partners.
- **So what?! Sessions** - These quick presentations will provide an application-oriented overview of local data tools and types of data resources.
- **Keynote speakers and panel discussion** that will dig into a potential local measure of wealth, which, as our keynote speaker Lamar Gardere, executive director of [The Data Center](#) in New Orleans, notes, "[should be reframed as a measure of one's ability to thrive.](#)" Mr. Gardere will be joined for the keynote session by [Victor Amaya](#), Ph.D., executive director of [Data You Can Use](#) in Milwaukee.

Mr. Gardere and Dr. Amaya will be joined by [Laura Yates Clark](#), president of the Foundation of the Carolinas; [Christina Danis](#), Ph.D., director of community economic development at Centralinas Regional Council; for a panel discussion moderated by [Ely Portillo](#), executive editor at [WFAE](#).

Additionally, a reception honoring the [Gambrell Faculty Fellows](#) will immediately follow the Forum. **To [register](#) for the 2025 Schul Forum please click [here](#) or [below](#).**

For information about the day's Pre-Forum Lunch & Learn Sessions and to see the tentative schedule, please visit our website [here](#).

### Register for Schul Forum 2025

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## MARIANNE M. & NORMAN W. Schul Forum Series

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