

Morning Keynote Speaker

Dr. Carmen Sidbury

Director, CESTEM
University of North Carolina Wilmington



Carmen Sidbury is the first African-American female to earn a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She earned BS and MS degrees in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina A & T State University and has years of professional experience in technical positions at AT&T Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies. Prior to joining UNCW, Dr. Sidbury led her company, The Sidbury Group, and worked with organizations to increase research capacity and to support pathways from K-12 to higher education.

She has worked at several higher education institutions, including Spelman College in roles of Associate Provost for Research and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Assistant Dean for Diversity in the College of Engineering at the University of Washington and Program Director for Diversity at Georgia Tech. She also spent

two years at the National Science Foundation in the Division of Graduate Education as a Program Director for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Dr. Sidbury is a seasoned professional with flexibility and adaptability rooted in a broad experience base, which includes experience in industry, government, and higher education institutions. She has developed strong relationships with local and national programs and serves as a diversity champion to promote the participation of underrepresented minorities in science and engineering.

Carmen is a native of Onslow County and excited about her new role as the CESTEM Director where she aspires to bring together higher education, secondary schools, government agencies, and industry to create pathways and opportunities for every students' success. She considers returning to North Carolina in this role as the pinnacle of her career and hopes to inspire future generations who start their journey in North Carolina schools.