

Kevin R. McClure, Ph.D.

Dr. Kevin R. McClure is the Murphy Distinguished Scholar of Education and Associate Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. As one of the nation's leading experts on higher education leadership, management, and finance, Kevin is focused on helping college and university leaders build better organizations.

What does this long title mean in practice? It means that Kevin spends a lot of time on his current research projects, which focus on improving the higher education workplace. These projects include leading a group of staff and faculty to study my college's workplace culture. He's working with doctoral students to collect data on turnover among higher education employees across the state of North Carolina. And he's writing a book about how we create more caring colleges and universities.

Although research and writing take up a good chunk of his time, Kevin is still teaching in UNCW's higher education programs. Specifically, he teaches courses on finance, legal issues, and organization and governance in higher education. And he's still advising and mentoring master's and doctoral students. Working closely with graduate students to help them sharpen skills and achieve professional goals is big part of Kevin's "why" as a professor.

Kevin is perhaps best known for his commitment to public scholarship and projects that will make knowledge accessible and actionable. This means working on freely available reports with organizations like the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and the Association for the Study of Higher Education. He writes regular columns on leadership and workplace strategies for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *EdSurge*. As a big fan of podcasts, Kevin loves exchanging ideas with guests and hosts on various podcasts about higher education. He also frequently offers expert commentary for national media outlets like *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *BBC America*, *USA Today*.

Sometimes Kevin's teaching experience and passion for public scholarship collide and he is invited to deliver keynotes, academic talks, presentations, and workshops for institutions, organizations, and conferences. Kevin sees these as opportunities to connect with the wider higher education community, share insights directly with leaders, and learn about problems of practice that improve his research.

The other hat Kevin wears is as the Co-Founder and Director of Public Engagement for the Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges (ARRC), a research center housed at Appalachian State University with the mission of increasing appreciation for and understanding of regional colleges and the communities they serve. Since its inception, ARRC has since partnered with Ascendium Education Group, Lumina Foundation, and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities on grant-funded and contract-based projects to advance regional and broad-access institutions with free, high-quality analyses.

Kevin earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in International Education Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to becoming a faculty member, he held professional positions in residence life, international programs, and academic affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park. Although he finds enormous joy in his work as a professor, he never forgets his roots as a staff member and graduate assistant.

Contact Information:

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