MBA Leadership Speaker Series. David Gantt, Chair, Buncombe County Commissioners.
David Gantt, a local attorney, is serving his fifth term on the Commission, his second as Chairman. He is dedicated to finding new jobs for Buncombe County, providing full funding for education, and advocating for the working people and environment of our community. Gantt is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (B.A. Economics, 1978) and Campbell University Law School (J.D. 1981). Gantt has over 30 years of experience practicing law, representing injured and disabled clients throughout western North Carolina. At the David Gantt Law Office in Asheville, he offers clients knowledgeable and compassionate representation as he pursues compensation and benefits for workers’ compensation, Social Security disability and personal injuries.

Thursday, September 26, 2013
6:00pm – 6:30pm
Biltmore Park Room 346
Speaker Series Semester Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 26</td>
<td>David Gantt – Chair, County Commissioners</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Bill Murdock – CEO, Eblen Charities</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Terry O’Keefe, Columnist – Asheville Citizen Times</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Louise McDonald – CEO, Herman Miller Corp.</td>
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<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Brooks Robinson, CEO – Harrah’s Resort</td>
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<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>David Belcher – Chancellor, WCU</td>
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GBSA Activities

**French Broad River - River Tubing 9/28/13** - Wishing summer would never end? Join us this Saturday, September 28, 2013 at 1 pm as we splash down the French Broad River on river tubes! You can provide your own river tube (make sure they are sturdy and are pretty resistant to popping ---- speaking from experience ) or rent one ($15 for tube rental / $20 for tube and shuttle). Spacing and transportation is **LIMITED**, so we will need to get a head count of those who want to attend. Friends, family, faculty, and alumni are also invited to join as well! Please RSVP to gbsa.wcu@gmail.com by Friday, September 20th at 12pm if you plan on attending and if you will be bringing someone.

Calendar of Events

MBA Advisory Board Meeting – Friday, October 4, noon-1:30pm, BP 344
MBA Information Sessions – Thursday, October 3, 6-7pm, BP 344
Wednesday, October 9, noon-1pm, BP 344
Friday, October 25, noon-1pm, BP 344

Opportunities

**Networking! Young Professionals of Haywood – Networking After Hours.** Join the Young Professionals of Haywood for a "Roaring Twenties" themed After Hours Event at the Herren House. Enjoy this excellent opportunity to network with young professionals in your community. Hors d’oeuvres and a Cash Bar Available. Thursday, September 26, 6 - 8 pm. Herren House, Waynesville.

**Networking! Morning Professional Development // Buncombe County Commissioner, Holly Jones // Friday, October 4th // Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce // 8:30 - 9:30 AM** - Holly Jones was elected to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in 2008. She served on Asheville City Council from 2001-2008. During her tenure on City Council, Holly served as Chair of the Asheville HOME Consortium, representative to the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization, Vice Mayor, and was the council liaison for many city committees including Minority Affairs, and the Greenway Commission. She currently serves on the Transportation Advisory Committee,
Community Energy Advisory Committee and Land of Sky Council. Commissioner Jones works as a regional director for the YWCA. Holly's leadership abilities and achievement have been widely recognized. In 2001 Holly received the Athena Award from Chamber of Commerce, a distinction reserved for women who have attained the highest level of professional excellence. She is also a graduate of the William Friday Fellowship in Human Relations and Leadership Asheville XVI.

**Internship! Accelerating Appalachia** - An internship with Accelerating Appalachia is an unparalleled opportunity to be involved in the launch of the first of its kind, Nature-Based Business (NBB) accelerator! The awesome NBB Intern(s) will be engaging with innovative entrepreneurs and businesses from Appalachia in sustainable food, farming, forests, fibers, fuels and other businesses, who operate from a place of value for people, planet and prosperity. NBB Intern(s) will engage in many aspects of non-profits, social enterprises and will provide support to the accelerator’s leadership team, innovative social entrepreneurs, and advisory team of mentors and social impact investors. The 12 fast-growing NBB’s have been selected from a pool of over 100, will be provided outstanding support for sustainable scaling their enterprise from our pool of 30+ world-class mentors and investors.

The individual(s) filling the role(s) of Intern for Accelerating Appalachia should have a general eagerness to learn, be highly motivated and excited to accomplish a variety of tasks, have excellent communication skills in person, in writing and social media. Best candidates will have basic understanding of business, and some understanding of social enterprise is great but not essential. We are excited to introduce our interns to the world of social enterprise! Tasks and necessary skills will vary, but the main areas of work can be divided into the three categories below:

**Website/Database Management and Communications**
- Posting updates to website
- Creating and maintaining Microsoft Excel databases
- Drafting and sending emails to participants and partners, other communications with partners

**Skills Needed:** Proficient in WordPress, Microsoft Excel, excellent data organization and communication skills

**Classroom Operations**
- Support facilitators and entrepreneurs during class time
- A/V setup, presentation, materials
- Set up/break down of classroom for bi-weekly sessions, three days a week

**Skills Needed:** Knowledge/ability to set up and run A/V equipment for presentations, Helpful and Fun Personality is great!

**Travel and Food Logistics**
- Coordinating with caterers, hotels, individuals who need/provide housing to our participants
- Helping participants with general help (getting around town, etc.)

**Skills Needed:** Good communicator, Well-organized

**Time Commitment**
- Accelerator session is from October 3, 2013 - December 9th, 2013, with bi-weekly sessions of 2-1/2 to three days (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). We hope to wrap up early afternoon on Saturdays. Prior to the launch of the session, the NBB Intern(s) will join our team on August 24 for approximately 20 hours/week is support of the accelerator launch.

**Time Commitment:** The NBB Intern(s) will be committed to approximately 40 days from September 30 - December 7th, 2013.

Interested students should apply by sending letter of interest and resume to jennifer@acceleratingappalachia.org.

**Connect Online!**
- **Facebook:** Western Carolina University MBA Program [https://www.facebook.com/wcu.mba](https://www.facebook.com/wcu.mba)
- **Twitter:** @wcuMBA [http://twitter.com/#!/wcuMBA](http://twitter.com/#!/wcuMBA)

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