

Central Piedmont Community College

Board of Trustees

Eligible for Reappointment

Name	District	Gender	Ethnicity
Rhodes, Khalif	1	Male	African American

Reappointment Letter



February 26, 2025

Mr. Mark Jerrell, Chair
Board of County Commissioners
600 E. 4th Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Chairman Jerrell:

PO Box 35009
Charlotte, NC
28235
704-330-2722
cpcc.edu

Please accept this letter as a request from Central Piedmont Community College to reappoint Mr. Khalif J. Rhodes to the college's Board of Trustees.

Since his appointment, Mr. Rhodes has been a dedicated and actively engaged trustee. He has brought invaluable insight to the board, leveraging his extensive legal experience and community involvement to support the college's mission. Mr. Rhodes has consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment by actively participating in board meetings and serving as a thoughtful, engaged member of the board.

Mr. Rhodes's background as the former Chief Magistrate of Mecklenburg County and his ongoing work as a criminal defense attorney at The Rhodes Firm, PLLC, has given him a deep understanding of our community's legal, social, and educational needs. His involvement with organizations such as the S.T.A.R.S Math & English Academy, the Criminal Justice Advisory Group, and the Mecklenburg County Commissioner's Small Business and Entrepreneurial Advisory Board underscores his commitment to community growth and development.

As a trustee, Mr. Rhodes has been a strong advocate for equitable access to education. His insightful contributions during discussions about student success initiatives and workforce development have significantly enriched our board's efforts to serve Central Piedmont students effectively. His dedication to student success and his community leadership as the former Chairman of the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg make him an exceptional advocate for the college.

In addition, Mr. Rhodes has consistently supported Central Piedmont's strategic goals. He has been an ambassador for the college throughout the Mecklenburg County community. His passion for education, justice, and community betterment aligns perfectly with the college's mission to empower individuals and strengthen our community through accessible, high-quality education.

We strongly support Mr. Rhodes's reappointment to a full four-year term as a trustee. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss this request in greater detail.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Dunn, Chair
Board of Trustees

Kandi W. Deitemeyer, Ed.D.
President

Statement to Applicants

Profile

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees: Submitted

Khalif Rhodes
First Name Last Name

What other names have you used? (includes, legal names, aliases, maiden names or professional monikers) NOTE: If none, please note N/A

NA

khalif.rhodes@rhodesfirm.com
Email Address

6031 Graburns Ford Dr.
Home Address

Charlotte NC 28269
City State Postal Code

Home: (704) 891-2494 Home: (678) 823-1228
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

What Mecklenburg County District do you live in? Please verify below. *

☒ 1

How long have you been a resident of Mecklenburg County? Please include months, or years.

15

My age range is (please select one): *

☒ 46 to 55

Ethnicity *

☒ African American

Gender *

☒ Male

Interests & Experiences

Education

Penn State University Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science
Bachelor of Arts (BA), Political Science
Cooley Law School Doctor of Law (JD)
Doctor of Law (JD) Cooley Law School
Master of Laws (LLM), Corporate Law and Finance
Master of Laws (LLM), Corporate Law and Finance

The Rhodes Firm, PLLC

Employer

Attorney

Occupation

Business and civic experience

I bring over 15 years of legal expertise, a proven track record of leadership, and a deep commitment to justice and community advancement. As a seasoned criminal defense attorney and civil rights advocate, I've led systemic reforms, including as Chief Magistrate of the 26th Judicial District, where I worked to address disparities in our criminal justice system. My experience serving on multiple boards and advisory committees has equipped me with the insight and collaborative skills needed to drive impactful governance. Beyond my legal practice, I am a dedicated community leader, educator, and family man who believes in using my platform to serve others and create lasting change. Serving on a board would allow me to further contribute my experience, integrity, and passion to support meaningful progress and inclusive leadership.

Area of expertise and interests/skills

In addition to my legal practice, I serve as the Chief Legal Analyst for Queen City News, where I provide real-time legal insight and commentary on pressing legal issues affecting the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community and beyond. This role has enhanced my ability to distill complex legal concepts for public understanding and build trust through transparent, informed analysis.

Additional Information

If you are or have ever served on a Mecklenburg County board/commission, please answer yes or no. If yes, please disclose the Board and term-end date.

I currently serve as a trustee at Central Piedmont Community College.

Why are you interested in serving on the board(s) to which you are applying?

I am interested in continuing my service on the board because I believe deeply in the mission of this institution and see meaningful opportunities to contribute to its long-term success. As a current member of the Finance and Facilities Committee, I've gained a strong understanding of the operational and fiscal responsibilities that support the board's strategic vision. I believe there is still important work to be done—particularly in ensuring that our financial decisions are equitable, sustainable, and aligned with the needs of the community we serve. My professional background as an attorney and community leader has equipped me with skills in critical analysis, strategic planning, and policy development, all of which I bring to my board service. Additionally, my experience as Chief Legal Analyst for Queen City News allows me to stay engaged with the public and communicate complex issues in ways that foster trust and transparency—an asset for any organization striving to build deeper community connections.

Have you attended a meeting of the advisory board(s) to which you are applying?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Hours Per Month Available for Position

20 Hours

How did you learn of the vacancy? *

☒ Other

If you answered other - Where did you learn of this vacancy?

I was informed that my term was ending and that I needed to reapply to be reappointed.

[Khalif Rhodes Resume 25.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Disclosure

Are you a Mecklenburg County resident?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you a current Mecklenburg County employee? (Mecklenburg County employees are prohibited from serving on any board where appointments are made by the Board of Commissioners. If you are a current, county employee who is to serve in an ex-officio and/or non-voting capacity on any board when required by law, please email clerk@mecknc.gov before submitting an application.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a current vendor with Mecklenburg County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

• Do you have any personal or business interest that could create a conflict (either real or perceived) if appointed? If yes, please explain the conflict.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Disclaimer

I, hereby, authorize Mecklenburg County to verify all information included in this application. I certify that I have read the appointment policy and that the information contained in this application is true according to the best of my knowledge and belief. I certify that I am providing my legal name and address in which I reside. I understand that inaccurate or untrue information will be cause for removal from any appointed advisory board. By submitting this application, I agree to adhere to all County policies pertaining to advisory boards, including attendance. I understand if I do not achieve 65% annual attendance, I will be automatically removed from the board or commission to which I am appointed. I understand that this application is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law (NCGS § 132-1) and may be released upon request.

☒ I Agree

Signature of Applicant (Sign Your Legal Name):

Khalif J. Rhodes

Board Specific Questions

Khalif J. Rhodes, Esq., LL.M.

Phone: (704) 891-2494 Email: khalif@rhodesfirm.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Extensive experience in coalition building, policy development, strategic planning, program implementation and evaluation, public policy analysis, and legislative advocacy. A proficient and persuasive orator with over 15 years of legal experience. Demonstrated success in building political alliances, influencing regulation and legislation, building teams, and drafting policies. A self-starting excellent communicator with great interpersonal and presentation skills; coupled with first-rate personal, political, analytical, and organizational skills and a proven record of surpassing expectations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Queen City News – Fox 46

June 2023 – Present

Chief Legal Analysis

- Legal Analysis: Provide expert legal analysis on breaking news stories, current events, and issues of public interest. Interpret and explain complex legal concepts in a clear and accessible manner for our audience.
- Political Analysis: Offer expert political analysis on national and international events, elections, policy decisions, and legislative developments. Provide in-depth insights into the implications of political actions for our audience.
- Collaboration: Work closely with our news editorial team to integrate legal perspectives into news coverage.
- Collaborate with reporters, producers, and editors to ensure legal accuracy and compliance in news stories.
- Research and Stay Informed: Stay abreast of legal developments, precedents, and trends relevant to the news industry. Monitor political developments, policy changes, and international relations. Conduct in-depth legal research to support news coverage and maintain a deep understanding of the legal and political landscape.
- On-Air Presence: Serve as the primary legal and political expert for on-air segments. Participate in live broadcasts, interviews, and panel discussions to provide insightful legal commentary. Engage with the audience through various platforms.
- Training and Guidance: Provide training and guidance to newsroom staff on legal issues, ethical standards, and best practices. Foster a culture of legal awareness and compliance within the organization.
- Crisis Management: Collaborate with the management team to develop and implement crisis communication strategies. Provide legal guidance during sensitive situations to mitigate risks and uphold the station's reputation.
- Strategic Leadership: Lead the political analysis team, providing strategic direction and overseeing the development and execution of political coverage strategies.

Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (BPC), Charlotte NC

May 2019 – February 2021

Chairman

- Analyzed local, state, and federal legislation weekly to devise counterarguments for potential legislation that would negatively impact the organization.
- Created an extensive network of contacts in local, regional, and national government.
- Advised and influenced local, state, and federal officials on the economic impact and secondary impacts to tourism and temporary housing that would result from the hosting of the Republican National Convention.
- Served as the spokesperson for the BPC hosting meetings with industry leaders, government officials, and prospective local, state, and federal political candidates including; President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.
- Oversaw the disparate impact team responsible for researching and analyzing public policy that had a disproportionate impact on the organization and its members.
- Devised an infrastructure that incorporated grassroots and Fortune 500 organizations to attempt to find the best way to use public-private partnerships to generate better outcomes for our organization.
- Drafted and issued numerous position statements and briefs aimed at guiding elected officials' decision-making to ensure the BPC's interests were protected.
- Hosted and moderated online collaborative think tanks with elected officials.

- Implemented local stakeholder engagement and partnership programs to advance the issues, policies, and programs that affected the organization.
- Conducted numerous press conferences on policy matters and legislative issues.

The Rhodes Firm, PLLC, Charlotte NC

October 2019 – Present

Attorney

- Advise client's executive team on the anticipated risks associated with pending legislation and policy changes that may impact their various lines of business.
- A legal advisor and an active participant in establishing partnerships and facilitating acquisition and divestiture transactions.
- Serves as Outside Counsel for numerous small and mid-sized organizations. Providing research, counsel, and guidance on routine legal questions or inquiries.
- Partners with local elected officials to create programs and policies that provide relief funds for small businesses affected by COVID.
- Constructed standards and benchmarks that help communicate and educate employees on compliance and ethics programs; as well as internal audits to ensure adherence.
- Provide legal support to organizations by drafting, reviewing, and negotiating agreements with external partners, customers, and vendors.
- Designed an effective Governance, Risk management, and Compliance (GRC) software solution that enables organizations to create, organize, and manage the life cycle of policies and procedures.

Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte NC

October 2015 – October 2019

Chief Magistrate

- Rewrote Mecklenburg County's Bail-Policy in conjunction with the Resident Superior Court Judge, Chief District Court Judge, Public Defender, and District Attorney resulting in a referendum in reform on cash bail.
- Conducted hearings with police officers to determine probable cause.
- Examined testimony and applied legal principles to determine whether a criminal process should be issued.
- Researched and assessed whether involuntary commitment should be granted to third parties.
- Set conditions for release in non-capital cases and determine pre-trial terms of release for all other matters.
- Accepted guilty pleas and enter judgments in Class 3 misdemeanors before the court.
- Served as a Truancy Court Judge and provided guidance, support, and accountability to students and families as they worked to overcome attendance problems.

Charlotte School of Law, Paralegal Program

May 2014 – October 2018

Adjunct Faculty

- Prepared syllabi, exams, and projects for an accredited program that enhanced student learning.
- Explored issues that pertain to all areas of legal ethics and trends that affect society as well as the current state of the legal community.
- Lectured on North Carolina's Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys ensuring that students understood their ethical obligations.

Rowan Cabarrus Community College

May 2013 – October 2018

Adjunct Faculty

- Presented college-level courses as an adjunct professor on the topics of cyber-law, forensics, and investigative accounting.
- Developed educational curriculum for delivery of classroom and online coursework.
- Researched new and innovative applications and theories on cyber-law, forensics, and investigative accounting.

Attorney

- Served as Outside Counsel for numerous small and mid-sized organizations. Provided research, counsel, and guidance on routine legal questions or inquiries.
- Managed production of periodic compliance performance reports and recommended strategies.
- Assisted both new and established organizations with compliance and ethics programs.
- Conducted routine internal audits of organizations to ensure that employees followed compliance and ethics programs.

Tower Legal Solutions, Charlotte, NC

October 2011 – June 2013

Contract Attorney

- Spearheaded project that analyzed CMBS contractual agreements assessing potential risk disclosure violations, fraudulent misrepresentations, or compliance violations of § 10 (b) and Regulation AB of the Security and Exchange Act of 1934.
- Executed gap analysis pertaining to the Freddie Mac Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) Supplemental Directives and identified for general counsel; impacted lines of business to ensure corrective actions were taken and deadlines were met.

EDUCATION

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI

Legal Law of Masters (LL.M.)

Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Pennsylvania State University, Erie, PA

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

State Bar of North Carolina

United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina

MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

Fox 46 Correspondent, *Legal and Political Analysts* (2018 – 2023)

Khalif J. Rhodes, Presentation, *The Benefits of Networking in the Legal Profession* (Charlotte, NC, Charlotte School of Law, Continuing Legal Education Seminar, Professionalism for New Admittees Oct. 11, 2014)

CMPD New officer training. Understanding how the Magistrate's office works. (August 2018)

BOARDS

Central Piedmont Community College – Member, Board of Trustees

Mecklenburg County Bar – Member, Board of Directors

S.T.A.R.S Math & English Academy – Member Board of Directors

The Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg – Former Chairman

Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Fatality review board - Former Board Member

Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG) - Former Board Member

Mecklenburg County Small Business and Entrepreneurial Advisory Board - Former Board Member

Mecklenburg County Family Justice Center to Mecklenburg County - Former Planning Committee Member

RECOGNITIONS

40 Under 40 (2018) - Charlotte Business Journal

Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2018 - Mecklenburg County Bar

Inspiring Black Leader (2018) – Turning Point Academy

Raising the Bar Award (2019) – Justice Initiatives, Inc.

Men Moving Mountains (2021) – Pride Magazine, Inc.

Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees

Board Details

Established by State Statute, the Board of Trustees is a corporate body with powers to acquire, hold, and transfer real and personal property, to enter into contracts, to institute and defend legal actions and suits, and to exercise such other rights and privileges as may be necessary for the management and administration of the institution in accordance with the provisions and purposes as stated in the General Statutes. Trustees are responsible for keeping elected officials informed of the implications of legislative actions that may have a bearing on the college.

Appointments are made for four-year terms. Members are appointed by the County Commission, Board of Education and the Governor.

Overview

- **Size** 12 Seats
- **Term Length** 4 Years
- **Term Limit** 2 Terms

Contact

- **Name** Genie Weekley
- **Phone** (704) 330-6096

Additional

Qualifications

Persons serving must be a resident of Mecklenburg County. Appointed members must attend a minimum of 65% of all scheduled meetings in a calendar year and cannot miss three consecutive meetings. Failure to comply with attendance requirements will result in removal from the advisory board.

Advisory Board Details

Appointments are made for four-year terms. Members are appointed by the County Commission, Board of Education, and the Governor.

Meeting Dates/Times

Twice Every Other Month - Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Location

Disher Building - Dowd Ballroom - 3rd Floor 1300 E 4th Street Charlotte, NC 28202

Time Commitment

12 hours annually

Stipend

No

Special Notes**Job Description**

Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees

Board Roster

Jimmy Dunn

2nd Term Jun 23, 2020 - Jun 30, 2028

Email jimdunn7@gmail.com

Home Phone Home: (704) 340-5568

Address

2125 Sharon Ln
Charlotte, NC 28211

Appointing Authority BOCC

Category BOCC

Gabriel J Esparza

1st Term Oct 19, 2021 - Jun 30, 2027

Email gabe_esparza@yahoo.com

Home Phone Mobile: (347) 749-3069

Alternate Phone Home: (347) 749-3069

Address

1426 Lilac Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28209

Appointing Authority BOCC

Category BOCC

Lucia Z Griffith

1st Term N/A - N/A

Email 809@noemail.com

Home Phone : 7048499665

Alternate Phone : 7043350000

Address

1812 East Bv
Charlotte, NC 28203

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority BOE

Category BOE

Michael S Hawley

No Term

Email 206@noemail.com

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority GOV

Category GOV

Chris Paterson

1st Term N/A - N/A

Home Phone :

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority GOV

Category GOV

□ **Khalif Rhodes**

1st Term Jul 01, 2021 - Jun 30, 2025

Email khalif.rhodes@rhodesfirm.com

Home Phone Home: (704) 891-2494

Alternate Phone Home: (678) 823-1228

Address

6031 Graburns Ford Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28269

Appointing Authority BOCC

Category BOCC

□ **Caldwell R Rose**

No Term

Email 217@noemail.com

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority BOE

Category BOE

□ **Alison M Summerville**

Partial Term Jul 06, 2023 - Jun 30, 2026

Email alison.summerville@ally.com

Home Phone Mobile: (704) 293-7689

Alternate Phone Business: (704) 444-4831

Address

2627 Sherwood Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28207

Appointing Authority BOCC

Category BOCC

□ **Vacancy**

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority GOV

Category GOV

□ **Vacancy**

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority GOV

Category GOV

□ **Vacancy**

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority BOE

Category BOE

□ **Vacancy**

No Recruitment

Appointing Authority BOE

Category BOE