

19th Annual North Carolina Defense Trade Show & Cybersecurity Forum

A message from Dr. J. Larry Keen, President, Fayetteville Technical Community College



On behalf of US Senator Richard Burr, US Senator Thom Tillis, Fayetteville Technical Community College and the North Carolina Military Business Center thank you to all of the exhibitors, businesses, government and military participants who attended the 19th Annual Defense Trade Show & Cybersecurity Forum. We hope that the speakers, materials and platform provided a wealth of information to assist in your businesses success. A special thank you to Secretary Elaine Marshall, North Carolina Department of State, who delivered exceptional remarks about the state of North Carolina's business environment and recovery during the COVID pandemic.

Secretary Elaine Marshall North Carolina Department of State



In 1996, Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall became the first woman elected to a statewide, executive branch office in North Carolina and has served as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State. A former teacher, small business owner, and private practice attorney, Secretary Marshall was elected to the NC State Senate before rising to statewide office. Under Secretary Marshall's administration, more than 1.5 million businesses have been formed, she has pioneered e-commerce in government, protected investors and intellectual property owners, and promoted financial capital formation in North Carolina.

She has received numerous state and national awards, including the 2020 N.C. Bar Association's Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake, Jr. Public Service Award, the 2020 John A. "Pete" Eberhart Ray of Light award from Boundless Impact for her decades of work advancing North Carolina's Global Competitiveness, Leadership North Carolina's 2016 Award for Public Service, and the 2007 U.S. Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award for a State Government Official. In addition, she was honored with the 2019 Brand Protection Hero Award from the Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection (A-CAPP), the Charlotte Business Journal's 2017 International Trade Lifetime Achievement Award, and Meredith College's 2017 Woman of Achievement Award. Secretary Marshall has been honored with four honorary doctorates, Triangle Business Journal's Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in Business, and was a 2018 Inductee for the NC Women Business Owners Hall of Fame. She has also received Lifetime Achievement Awards from North Carolina 4-H and the National 4-H Hall of Fame.