






Christopher Shannon DePerno, Ph.D.

ACE Fellow (2024–2025) | 2x Provost Leadership Fellow | Professor & Program Coordinator | Faculty
Senate Associate Chair
North Carolina State University

 Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
 3227 Jordan Addition, Raleigh, NC 27695-7646
 Office: (919) 513-7559 | Cell: (919) 334-8935
 chris_deperno@ncsu.edu
 [Faculty Website](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

CITIZENSHIP

United States of America – 1968 – present
Italy 2019 – present

EDUCATION

South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota 57007

Ph.D. Biological Sciences, July 1998.

Habitat Selection of a Declining White-Tailed Deer Herd in the Central Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

Master of Science Biology, May 1994.

Poststrike Elevation in Tongue-Flicking Rate and Strike-Induced Chemosensory Searching in Several Families of Lizards.

Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859

Bachelor of Science, December 1990.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020 – Present	Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Coordinator and Liaison and Full Professor, College of Natural Resources, NCSU, Raleigh, NC
2014 – 2020	Professor, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, College of Natural Resources, NC State University, Raleigh, NC
2010 – 2014	Associate Professor, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, College of Natural Resources, NC State University, Raleigh, NC
2004 – 2010	Assistant Professor, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, College of Natural Resources, NC State University, Raleigh, NC
2000 – Present	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
1998 – 1999	Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
1994 – 1998	Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD
1991 – 1994	Master's Candidate, Research, and Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, IN

SELECTED EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE & STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**2024-2025 | ACE Fellow, American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Leadership Program
University of North Carolina Wilmington & High Point University (Fall 2024) | Kansas State
University (Spring 2025)**

- Completed executive leadership placement with Chancellor Aswani Voley and Provost James Winebrake at UNCW, contributing to strategic plan implementation and assessment across institutional divisions (**strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, accreditation**).
- Co-led the development of strategic plan KPIs, dashboards, and reporting mechanisms to align unit-level initiatives with institutional mission and measurable outcomes (**assessment, data-informed decision-making, continuous improvement**).
- Participated in Chancellor's Cabinet and Provost leadership meetings, providing actionable insights to guide strategic priorities, resource allocation, and campus-wide communication strategies (presentation and communication, internal relations, operational effectiveness).
- Facilitated cross-unit collaboration through academic dean engagement, strategic plan implementation updates, and integration of assessment outcomes into planning cycles (**shared governance, institutional alignment, academic innovation**).
- Partnered with the UNCW Office of Institutional Research to evaluate systems readiness for SACSCOC reaccreditation compliance and led strategy alignment exercises to prepare for future accreditation milestones (**accreditation, institutional effectiveness, compliance**).
- Conducted a focused site visit to High Point University, engaging with President Nido Qubein and Provost Daniel Erb to gain insight into private university leadership, institutional branding, and innovative approaches to academic and co-curricular engagement (**external relations, innovation, private university leadership**).
- Observed HPU's strategic positioning, philanthropic strategy, enrollment growth, and investment in student experience, drawing comparative insights into public-private distinctions in institutional culture and agility (**advancement, enrollment strategy, student-centered excellence**).
- Completed full-time placement with President Richard Linton and Provost Jesse Mendez at Kansas State University (K-State), where I contributed to high-level institutional planning and governance (**executive leadership, public trust, system alignment**).
- Participated in President's Cabinet, strategic plan review sessions, K-State Board of Trustees, and Kansas Board of Regents meetings, shaping academic priorities and advocating for mission-aligned initiatives (**policy development, shared governance, academic leadership**).
- Led a data project for the K-State Foundation and Alumni Board focused on alumni engagement metrics, philanthropic targeting, and strategic ROI analysis to guide donor cultivation strategies (**advancement, data analytics, stakeholder engagement**).
- Contributed to K-State's Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation planning and writing, collaborating with the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness to integrate outcomes assessment, program review, and strategic communication into the self-study process (**accreditation, institutional effectiveness, strategic planning**).
- Represented the university in federal government relations activities, including congressional 'ask' sessions in Topeka, KS and Washington, D.C., advocating for research investment and higher education policy priorities (**external relations, public policy, government engagement**).
- Facilitated external partnerships with business, donors, and philanthropic leaders to advance research collaborations, community engagement efforts, and interdisciplinary academic initiatives (**public-private partnerships, research impact, community engagement**).
- Resulted in enhanced alignment between institutional planning and accreditation standards, increased alumni engagement through targeted data strategies, and strengthened K-State's external visibility and advocacy capacity across state and federal platforms (**institutional impact, innovation, strategic leadership**).

Core Leadership Competencies

Core competencies are essential skills, behaviors, and attributes that enable individuals to perform effectively, deliver value, and achieve success within an organization.

Strategic Mindset

Demonstrated the ability to align vision with execution across multiple institutional contexts. As an ACE Fellow, collaborated with senior leadership at UNC Wilmington and Kansas State University to implement strategic plans, lead accreditation preparations, and support cross-campus strategic alignment. At NC State, I directed major components of the university's SACSCOC accreditation and led Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) design and integration. At Kansas State, I helped shape institutional strategy through participation in the President's Cabinet, Board of Regents sessions, and strategic research collaborations. Consistently applied foresight, systems thinking, and institutional insight to guide universities through periods of complexity, transformation, and growth. **(strategic planning, accreditation, innovation, institutional effectiveness, executive leadership)**

Building Effective Teams and Networks

Unified cross-sector teams to solve complex, multi-stakeholder challenges with lasting public impact. As co-leader of the North Carolina Feral Swine Task Force, brought together state and federal agencies, agricultural groups, conservation partners, and policymakers to author and advance the North Carolina Feral Swine Elimination Plan. Built trusted relationships across the university ecosystem through roles in the Faculty Senate, accreditation task forces, national professional societies, and public engagement boards. At Kansas State, strengthened alumni, donor, and industry engagement through a data-focused advancement project with the K-State Foundation and Alumni Board. **(collaborative leadership, stakeholder engagement, public-private partnerships, shared governance, networked leadership)**

Customer Focus

Prioritized student, faculty, and stakeholder needs in all academic and administrative roles. As Coordinator for the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program, led student success initiatives including curriculum reform, scholarship development, mentoring, and experiential learning design. Enhanced outcomes by listening to students, aligning programs with industry needs, and fostering community-based learning. As Faculty Fellow in Assessment and Accreditation, improved clarity and alignment around faculty credentials and program evaluation to meet institutional and regulatory standards. Demonstrated responsiveness, empathy, and value-driven engagement to ensure inclusive, student-centered outcomes. **(student-centered leadership, curriculum development, experiential education, faculty support, equity of access)**

Driving Results

Delivered measurable outcomes through cross-functional leadership, data-informed decision-making, and results-oriented planning. At the Minnesota DNR, led statewide modeling, surveillance, and conservation efforts, securing external funding and building research capacity. In NC State's Faculty Senate and across national advisory boards, shaped academic policy, accreditation strategy, and institutional advancement through data, dialogue, and action. At Kansas State, elevated external relations through donor engagement, strategic board presentations, and congressional advocacy. In every leadership context, aligned resources and partnerships with mission-driven results improved systems, deepened trust, and strengthened institutional performance. **(data-informed decision-making, funding acquisition, measurable impact, policy influence, research leadership)**

Provost's Faculty Fellow – Leadership Track

2023-2024 | NC State University | Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

- Designed and led a strategic initiative assessing the feasibility of a centralized, university-wide database to support faculty and staff collaboration across research, engagement, and administrative projects **(strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, innovation)**.

- Partnered with a faculty colleague to engage senior stakeholders, including Associate Vice Chancellors, Senior Vice Provosts, Deans, and Associate Deans, in a cross-divisional planning process (**collaborative leadership, shared governance, stakeholder engagement**).
- Conducted qualitative interviews and institutional scans to evaluate the initiative's value proposition, infrastructure capacity, stakeholder support, and resource implications (**data-informed decision-making, operational effectiveness, entrepreneurship**).
- Compiled and synthesized results into an executive report and presentation for the Chancellor, Provost, and University Leadership Team (**presentation and communication, transparent leadership, leadership development**).
- Developed key competencies in strategic planning, shared governance, operational effectiveness, and technology-enabled institutional transformation through high-level leadership training (**leadership development, institutional effectiveness, innovation**).
- Resulted in the formation of a university task force to evaluate implementation pathways, which will be led by the project's leadership team (**inclusive leadership, technology-enhanced systems, organizational change**).

Co-Leader, North Carolina Feral Swine Task Force – Elimination Plan Subcommittee

2019–Present | Statewide Multi-Agency Partnership

- Served as a senior leader within a multi-agency task force addressing ecological, agricultural, and public health risks associated with feral swine in North Carolina (**collaborative leadership, external relations, community engagement**).
- Co-led the high-functioning, cross-sector subcommittee tasked with developing and authoring the official North Carolina Feral Swine Elimination Plan (**strategic planning, program development, institutional effectiveness**).
- Partnered with representatives from state and federal agencies, agricultural organizations, public health departments, and conservation bodies to coordinate shared goals and operational strategies (**stakeholder engagement, shared governance, regional relations**).
- Presented the statewide elimination plan to the appropriate federal and state agencies, NGO's, local producers, landowners, and community stakeholders to secure broad support and ensure local relevance (**public-private partnerships, presentation and communication, advancement**).
- Maintained ongoing leadership communication with USDA-Wildlife Services, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and NC Wildlife Resources Commission to implement and refine the plan (**operational effectiveness, transparent leadership, policy development**).
- Advocated for legislative support and funding, translating scientific research and community input into actionable policy recommendations (**data-informed decision-making, external grant funding, public trust**).
- Resulted in federal funding for a research grant exploring feral swine movements, legislative and agency discussions on statewide eradication, and collaboration with neighboring states on best practices for feral swine management (**institutional impact, policy influence, intergovernmental collaboration**).

Provost's Faculty Fellow – Leadership Track

2022–2023 | NC State University | Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, Office of Assessment and Accreditation

- Served as a faculty fellow supporting campuswide assessment and accreditation processes in alignment with SACSCOC standards and institutional priorities (**assessment, accreditation, institutional effectiveness**).
- Worked collaboratively with academic affairs and institutional research teams to advance NC State's compliance with SACSCOC Standard 6, focused on faculty qualifications, program

coordination, and academic quality (**shared governance, data-informed decision-making, academic excellence**).

- Led the review and documentation of faculty credentials by program, including analysis of alternative credentialing pathways and support for faculty profile validation (**program development, faculty support, compliance**).
- Assisted with institutional reporting on faculty sufficiency and program oversight, contributing to the preparation of narratives and exhibits for off-site and on-site accreditation reviews (**strategic planning, continuous improvement, academic innovation**).
- Partnered with the Office of Institutional Strategy and Effectiveness to align program-level outcomes assessment with accreditation expectations and broader university goals (**institutional effectiveness, curriculum innovation, assessment**).
- Resulted in NC State receiving only minor points of clarification in the SACSCOC off-site review and earning a perfect on-site accreditation report with zero recommendations (**institutional impact, accreditation success, operational excellence**).

Associate Chair, Faculty Senate

2023–Present (Senator since 2022) | NC State University

- Served as a liaison between the Faculty Senate and the College of Natural Resources, representing faculty concerns and ensuring bidirectional communication of policies, decisions, and deliberations (**shared governance, internal relations, faculty support**).
- Reported regularly to college constituencies on Senate matters, met with deans and administrators, and brought forward faculty issues for institutional consideration (**stakeholder engagement, policy development, transparent leadership**).
- Facilitated full Senate meetings by calling sessions to order, conducting roll calls, approving minutes, delivering announcements, moderating discussions, and managing adjournments (**operational effectiveness, inclusive leadership, governance procedures**).
- Moderated Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings and presented Senate updates to the NC State University Board of Trustees (**presentation and communication, academic policy leadership, strategic planning**).
- Served in multiple governance and advisory roles, including Academic Policy Committee, Council on Athletics, Council on Undergraduate Education, and Faculty Assembly Delegation (**shared governance, institutional effectiveness, academic excellence**).
- Chaired or co-chaired committees and search efforts, including the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Director Search Committee and the Faculty Workload Committee under the UNC Faculty Assembly (**faculty recruitment and retention, academic innovation, institutional impact**).
- Participated in the SACSCOC 2024 Reaffirmation of Accreditation Steering Committee and University Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee (**accreditation, faculty development, assessment**).
- Resulted in increased faculty engagement, elevated policy responsiveness, and strengthened the Faculty Senate's influence in academic governance and institutional decision-making at NC State (**institutional effectiveness, shared governance impact, faculty empowerment**).

Coordinator and Liaison, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program

2015–Present | NC State University, College of Natural Resources

- Attracted high-achieving students by leading orientations, offering personalized campus tours, and engaging prospective students and families in one-on-one meetings (**student engagement, enrollment strategy, academic excellence**).

- Fostered endowment and scholarship growth, guided curriculum revisions, administered departmental awards, and supervised the Program Administrative Assistant (**fundraising, program development, operational effectiveness**).
- Maintained community and collaboration across students, faculty, and partners by organizing program events, facilitating faculty-student interaction, and representing the program nationally (**community engagement, stakeholder engagement, shared governance**).
- Served as elected Southeast Region Chair of the Executive Board for the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP) in 2023 (**external relations, national leadership, advancement**).
- Taught 2–3 courses annually, including Wildlife Management, Piedmont Wildlife Ecology and Management (capstone-field-practicum summer course), and a graduate seminar (**academic excellence, experiential education, lifelong learning**).
- Oversaw multiple graduate research projects in North Carolina and Sweden and mentored postdoctoral researchers across interdisciplinary topics (**faculty support, global landscape, research excellence**).
- Managed Bull Neck Swamp Research Forest, including operations related to hunting leases, timber sales, infrastructure maintenance, access, budgeting, and endowment oversight (**operational effectiveness, institutional stewardship, land management**).
- Took on active leadership roles in professional organizations such as The Wildlife Society and the Great Plains Natural Science Society (**faculty leadership, professional development, external engagement**).
- Built and sustained strategic partnerships with donors, funding agencies, and interdisciplinary research collaborators to support long-term program innovation and resource development (**public-private partnerships, advancement, interdisciplinary initiatives**).
- Resulted in the FWCB Program being ranked #2 in Wildlife Research nationally, with students contributing to high-impact projects in habitat management, citizen science, wildlife health, and quantitative ecology (**institutional impact, academic innovation, national recognition**).

Mentor, The Wildlife Society Leadership Institute
2022–Present | The Wildlife Society

- Participated in The Wildlife Society’s Leadership Institute, an intensive program designed to prepare emerging leaders in the wildlife profession (**leadership development, professional development, national leadership**).
- Mentored early-career wildlife professionals—recent graduates in full-time positions—by offering career guidance, leadership coaching, and support for advancement within the profession (**faculty mentorship, workforce development, succession planning**).
- Resulted in increased leadership preparedness among early-career mentees, expanded professional networks, and strengthened the leadership pipeline for The Wildlife Society and the broader wildlife profession (**capacity building, mentorship impact, institutional legacy**).

Farmland Deer Project Leader / Research Scientist 2
1999–2004 | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | Division of Fish and Wildlife

- Supervised MS- and PhD-level biologists, research staff, and field technicians while managing research and operational budgets under the direction of state agency leadership (**faculty mentorship, financial acumen, team leadership**).
- Conducted annual population modeling for white-tailed deer in the farmland regions of Minnesota and shared model outputs with wildlife staff, the media, and the public (**data-informed decision-making, public communication, operational effectiveness**).

- Developed and led research on deer population dynamics, habitat use, and mortality patterns, including coyote behavior and predation during fawning season (**research excellence, program development, wildlife ecology**).
- Secured external funding for research initiatives through strategic partnerships with Minnesota sportsman organizations (**external grant funding, advancement, public-private partnerships**).
- Designed and implemented a statewide monitoring program for Chronic Wasting Disease in white-tailed deer and oversaw the initiation of otter and elk research programs (**program coordination, institutional effectiveness, public health**).
- Resulted in actionable research that informed statewide wildlife management decisions, increased funding and stakeholder support, and enhanced scientific understanding of predator-prey interactions and disease monitoring in Minnesota's agricultural landscapes (**institutional impact, policy influence, research application**).

SUMMARY OF SCHOLARSHIP

Refereed Journal Articles	173 (+3 in press)	Post-Docs Supervised	6
Reports/Extension Publications	104	Graduate Student Committees	26
Book Chapters	3	Graduate Students Directed	41
Popular Press Articles	50	Undergraduate student supervised research	77
Newsletters	53	Teaching Assistants Supervise	86
Research Presentations	393 (21 invited)	Courses Developed	9
Extension Presentations/Training/Guest Lecture	274	Courses Delivered	80
Extension Phone Calls/Meetings/Site Visits	~1000	Undergraduate Advisees	~15-55/year
Research/Extension Grants (10,074,849)	102	Current Graduate Students	4
Editorships	19	Blog	22
Book Reviews	1	Endowments Created	1
Peer-reviewed case study/Business Reports	2	Expert Witness in Court	2
Symposium Organizer/Moderator	11		

SUMMARY OF HONORS AND AWARDS RECEIVED

- 2021 **The Wildlife Society, Fellows Award**, recognizes current Wildlife Society members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service to the wildlife profession.
- 2019 **North Carolina Chapter of The Wildlife Society Hero Award**. Presented by T. J. Kroeger, D. R. Hannon, M. J. Walker, and W. R. Casola.
- 2016 **Natural Resources Scientist of the Year**, The North Carolina Wildlife Federation, 53rd Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards, Embassy Suites, Research Triangle Park, Cary, North Carolina.
- 2013 **South Dakota State University Distinguished Alumni**.
- 2012 **North Carolina State Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Chapter Award**. Presented 'In Recognition of Outstanding Service on behalf of the North Carolina Chapter and Wildlife in North Carolina'.
- 2007 **Outstanding Advisor Award**, North Carolina State University College of Natural Resources, Forestry and Environmental Resources. A Facilitator of Student Success.
- 2005 **Family Farm Education Award** presented by the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs and the National Woodland Owners Association.
- 2002 **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Special Recognition Award. Teamwork Award** presented – 'In Recognition and Appreciation of His Outstanding Teamwork in Response to Chronic

- Wasting Disease'. 9th Annual Minnesota Conservation Awards Banquet, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Division of Enforcement, Prom Expo Center, Oakdale, Minnesota.
- 2002 **Certified Wildlife Biologist**, The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- 2001 **Employee Achievement Award**. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- 1999 **Associate Wildlife Biologist**, The Wildlife Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- 1998 **Outstanding Ph.D. Student**, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

Advocates and References

Dr. Randy Woodson

Chancellor

North Carolina State University

Email: randy_woodson@ncsu.edu | Phone: (919) 515-2191

Dr. Warwick Arden

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

North Carolina State University

Email: provost@ncsu.edu | Phone: (919) 515-7624

Dr. Richard H. Linton

President

Kansas State University

Email: president@k-state.edu | Phone: (785) 532-6221

Dr. Aswani K. Volety

Chancellor

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Email: voletyak@uncw.edu | Phone: (910) 962-4103

Dr. James J. Winebrake

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Email: winebrakej@uncw.edu | Phone: (910) 962-2464

Tiffany Tramontozzi

Associate Chief of Staff – Board of Trustees, Office of the Chancellor

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Email: tramontozzit@uncw.edu | Phone: (910) 962-2421

Dr. Katharine Stewart

Professor of Psychology; Past Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

North Carolina State University

Email: kestewa4@ncsu.edu | Phone: (919) 513-7741

Kimberly Grainger, JD, MPH

Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence

North Carolina State University

Email: kcgraing@ncsu.edu | Phone: (919) 515-5490

Dr. Myron Floyd

Dean, College of Natural Resources

North Carolina State University

Email: mffloyd@ncsu.edu | Phone: (919) 515-2883

Dr. Jonathan A. Jenks

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Science

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, South Dakota State University

Email: jonathan_jenks@sdstate.edu | Phone: (605) 690-4740

Todd Menke

Assistant State Director, Certified Wildlife Biologist®

USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services

Email: todd.a.menke@usda.gov

Office: (919) 326-6923 | Cell: (919) 594-0459 | Toll-Free: 1-866-4USDAWS

Dr. Robert G. Osborn

Private Lands Program Manager

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Email: Robert.Osborn@state.nm.us | Phone: (505) 476-8098

Jeannine A. Tardiff

Wildlife Biologist – Deer Section

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Email: jtardiff@state.pa.us | Phone: (724) 238-1826