

OUTSTANDING STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE



HOLLY JORDAN

West District - Buncombe
County Extension Office,
North Carolina State University

As the extension office director for Buncombe County, Holly Jordan plays a key role in extending research-based knowledge from North Carolina State University (NCSU) to residents in the western region of the state. Under Jordan's direction, extension officers engage with farmers, business owners, and families to identify local issues, collaborate with NCSU scientists to better understand and address problems, and deliver informed solutions to those in Buncombe County. In her time as director, Jordan has done an exceptional job of ensuring the office runs smoothly and that every officer performs at their best. Her efforts have expanded the office's presence and programming while fostering a work environment that encourages collaboration and strengthens the entire team.

Her day-to-day work is impressive, yet it was Jordan's response in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene that demonstrates outstanding state government service. The storm caused catastrophic levels of flooding for Buncombe's agricultural lands, leaving devastating crop losses and infrastructure damage in its wake. While the extension office typically offers science- and evidence-based advancements to solve problems, Jordan knew that during this critical time, those in her community needed physical resources as an immediate solution. She jumped into action, organizing a donation drive with the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center to collect over \$55,000 in clothing and outerwear for those affected by Helene.

Jordan didn't stop there. She homed in on the specific material needs of those the extension office most closely serves – farmers and agribusiness owners. She coordinated helicopters and trucks to deliver 10,000 bales of hay and 60,000 pounds of cover crop seeds to address soil erosion and restoration to Buncombe County's agriculturists.



Agriculture is the number one industry in North Carolina. While Hurricane Helene caused inevitable loss, Jordan's quick problem-solving helped lessen the blow. By keeping this essential industry functioning in western North Carolina, she helped preserve her neighbors' and clients' livelihoods, as well as the state's economy. The State of North Carolina commends Holly Jordan for such outstanding state government service.