



# NC TRAVEL NEWS

A weekly newsletter on North Carolina General Assembly news relevant to the North Carolina tourism industry

## NCTIA Vists Western NC



NCTIA visited with members on Wednesday at the Montreat Conference Center in Buncombe County to discuss asset development options available to western North Carolina TDAs.

NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena was the guest of executive directors Don Carson, Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority; Thomas Salley, Wilkesboro Tourism Development Authority; and Wright Tilley, Watauga County Tourism Development.

“Western North Carolina wants to develop more assets and NCTIA believes this goal fits well into our appropriations asks to the General Assembly in the short session this spring,” said Chelena. “Legislators from western North Carolina have told our lobbyists that they want to do more asset development in western counties.”

NCTIA is in the early stages of developing its 2024 Legislative Agenda.

## Silent Auction at Visit NC Conference

The North Carolina Tourism Education Foundation is sponsoring their annual Silent Auction at the 2024 Visit NC Tourism Conference. The conference will be held March 17-19 at the Greenville Convention Center in Greenville, NC.

[Click here to learn more about the NCTEF Silent Auction, including how to make a donation.](#) [Click here to register for the Visit NC 365 conference..](#)

The 2023 silent auction raised \$8,740 for the Tourism Education Foundation of North Carolina and featured items from 40 DMOs and destinations that proved popular with conference attendees.

The Tourism Education Foundation of North Carolina is a nonprofit organization created by the North Carolina Travel Industry Association to help the state's tourism industry prepare for a dynamic future. The foundation's objective is to prepare the tourism industry for the future by developing a new generation of leaders.

The silent auction supports a combination of undergraduate scholarships and graduate scholarships for students attending North Carolina colleges or universities in tourism or hospitality management programs.

The organization also supports continuing education programs for tourism professionals at conferences like the NC Tourism Leadership Conference in addition to a its Workforce Development Pilot Program.

Throughout the Visit NC Tourism Conference, written bids will be accepted for an exciting array of travel adventures, services and merchandise from North Carolina. All donations are tax deductible.

In addition to your contribution, come to the conference ready to bid on an amazing collection of adventures and items.

The annual Visit North Carolina Tourism Conference is the state's premier travel industry event. Bringing together more than 500 of the state's tourism industry leaders, the conference provides opportunities to catch up on the latest trends and issues facing the travel industry, hear insights from industry experts and network with other travel and tourism professionals.

