



Leslie Hossfeld, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Behavioral, Social & Health Sciences

- Has been at Clemson since July 2018.
- Has made two presentations to the U.S. Congress and one to the NC legislature on job loss and rural economic decline.
- Received the NCSA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Hossfeld is trained in rural sociology from North Carolina State University with experience examining rural poverty and economic restructuring. She has served as Co-Chair of the American Sociological Association Task Force on Public Sociology, Vice President of Sociologists for Women in Society, President of the Southern Sociological Society, Chair of the American Sociological Association Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology, the Mississippi Food Policy Council, and on the Executive Council of the North Carolina Sociological Association (NCSA) for which she received the NCSA Lifetime Achievement Award in February 2019. Currently, Dr. Hossfeld serves as Co-Chair on the USDA SERA-47 multi-state initiative, Strengthening the Southern Region Extension and Research System to Support Local and Regional Food Needs and Priorities in 13 states in the southern region. Prior to joining Clemson, Dean Hossfeld was Head of the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Social Work at Mississippi State University (MSU) for three years, and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington prior to joining MSU. Dr. Hossfeld has developed economic recovery projects for rural North Carolina counties and food sovereignty projects in the Mississippi Delta using health as an economic development strategy. Her current research focuses on multi-disciplinary strategies and collaborative partnerships around local food systems development and nutrition security. Hossfeld works to bridge U.S. local food systems research to health disparities to develop policy coherence linking health and agriculture policy.

Visit Dr. Hossfeld's [faculty page](#).



The mission of the Sonoco FRESH initiative is to develop innovative solutions by engaging the collective intellectual capital and purposeful collaboration of experts from academia, industry and thought leaders across the entire food value chain.