

JOHN HANNA

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP USA – NORTH CAROLINA

John Hanna loves student ministry. He first became involved with InterVarsity as a college student and then has gone on to serve in various staff positions for 26 years. He served as a campus staff leader at Appalachian State University, UNC-Asheville, and Lenoir Rhyne University for 8 years. He then served 15 years as an Area Director in Western NC. In 2016, John became the Carolinas Regional Director, overseeing InterVarsity's ministry in NC and SC. He has partnered with our church since 1994.



*John and Shelley with daughters
Molly and Katie*

John manages his responsibilities with a shepherd's heart, always looking out for the welfare of his staff and the salvation and spiritual development of the students. As Regional Director, he is responsible for staff development, student training programs, staff recruiting and hiring. He provides coaching and personal development for his staff directors, oversees InterVarsity's regional budget and assists with regional fundraising. InterVarsity has seen tremendous growth during John's tenure as Carolinas Regional Director. The region now has chapters on 25 campuses which are led by student leaders with direction from InterVarsity staff. There are 9 additional campuses that have Bible study and/or regular student meetings, but don't have an overseeing campus staff leader. These fledgling chapters are led by a local volunteer, a staff member from a nearby campus, or an area director. Two of these new chapter plants are in our backyard, Blue Ridge Community College and AB Tech in Asheville, with small Bible study groups that meet regularly.

In addition to reaching new schools, John has encouraged his staff and student leaders to identify new people groups on campuses who are not currently being reached by campus ministry or a local church. As a result, new chapters have been planted among black students at NC State, Asian-American students meeting at UNC-Greensboro, and fraternity and sorority members attending East Carolina University and Clemson University. These similar-culture chapters help make students feel comfortable and understood in an often competitive and prejudiced campus setting.

For John, navigating this recent Covid season has been both challenging and rewarding. During the height of the pandemic, large groups were not allowed to meet. Some chapters continued small group in-person Bible studies following social distancing protocols. But most of the InterVarsity activity has gone virtual, using Zoom and other social media platforms to connect/meet new students and hold Bible study. John held all his staff training and mentoring sessions virtually as well. It was a big learning curve for all involved.

John has been most surprised by the connections made with students who attend campuses where there is no InterVarsity presence or other campus ministry. Using social media, John's staff and student leaders connected with students at 10 campuses in North and South Carolina. They offered some online meetings and Bible studies to encourage and disciple these students. John prayerfully waits to see the results.

Birthdays: John, Apr. 1; Shelly, Sept. 17
Molly 12-1-99, Katie 9-4-02

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