

APPENDIX A

Citation and Response of the 2006 O. Max Gardner Award Recipient

DR. KEN R. HAREWOOD

Citation:

Renowned scientist, educator, and administrator, Dr. Ken R. Harewood, GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Professor of the Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology and Director of the North Carolina Central University Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute is nationally recognized for his significant contributions in the area of health disparities research and workforce development.

Following completion of secondary school in Barbados, West Indies, Dr. Harewood entered New York University where he earned a bachelor's degree with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. He received his graduate training at City College of the City University of New York where he was awarded masters and doctoral degrees in biochemistry. After completing his post-doctoral work at the Alfred Kimball Institute of the New York Blood Center, Dr. Harewood joined the Central Research Division of Pfizer Inc. as a member of the Cancer Research Department.

Dr. Harewood's extensive corporate research experiences resulted in creative contributions to national and international efforts resulting in the discovery of the viral agents that cause human leukemia and AIDS; pioneering work on cloning the gene for chymosin that resulted in FDA approval for the first recombinant DNA process for a food ingredient; well-documented contributions to the local and national effort directed at increasing the pool of minority scientists; and effective use of drama-based approaches to communicate important health education and disease prevention messages to community groups.

Following an exhaustive national search, Dr. Harewood was selected in 1998 to be the Director of the North Carolina Central University Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute. He authored the proposal to establish the institute; defined its mission and focus; assembled the research teams; developed strategic partnerships with academic institutions, industry, and government agencies; and significantly enhanced North Carolina Central's capacity to conduct research that address the medical and health needs of communities served by the University. Drawing on his vision, energy, and creativity, Dr. Harewood developed the strategic

plan and authored the proposal that resulted in the establishment of the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) on campus. This innovative program prepares students at all levels to be competitive for jobs in the biomanufacturing industry and serves as the cornerstone for North Carolina Central's programs in the biomedical sciences and biotechnology that are widely recognized as a unique national model that other universities seek to emulate.

Recognizing his commitment to excellence, noting his passion for educating the next generation of minority scientists, and commending his capacity to provide leadership in areas vitally important to the economic development of our state and our nation, the Board of Governors takes great pleasure in presenting the 2006 Oliver Max Gardner Award to Dr. Ken R. Harewood, GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Professor of the Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology and Director of the North Carolina Central University Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute.

Response:

Good morning. I am almost speechless. I really enjoyed the video and hearing the wonderful comments from my colleagues and administrators.

President Bowles, members of the Gardner family, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen; I am really honored to be selected as the recipient of this year's Oliver Max Gardner Award. I want to thank Chancellor Ammons, for nominating me, and other members of the faculty at NCCU. I particularly want to thank this board for considering me worthy of such distinction.

I must say that I accept this award with much humility, conscience of the fact that it was really my parents who nurtured me and instilled in me the values of scholarship and hard work. I especially want to thank my wife, Eudine, for her encouragement and support. I also, thank our daughter, Dionne, and our son, Kevin, my sisters and brothers who were introduced earlier, for their moral support and unconditional love.

In preparing these remarks, I have looked back on my career, and am amazed by how rapidly the world of science has changed since I was a graduate student. Nobel Laureate Robert Holley's elegant work on characterizing the transfer Ribonucleic acids (RNAs) was the center of my universe then. It provided me with real insights on how cells reproduce their genetic

information. My mentor Jack Goldstein was one of Holley's students, and it was in his laboratory that I isolated and studied my first RNA molecule. That was a time when biochemistry was believed to be the driver of all biological discovery.

Later, as a post-doc and then as a member of the Discovery Research Group at Pfizer my toolbox grew in size and sophistication. New technologies emerged that enabled me to clone a mammalian gene and develop the first recombinant DNA process for a food ingredient. I was also able to design and implement molecular strategies for discovering novel anti-cancer drugs.

After 15 years as a molecular geneticist, I yearned for an opportunity to share my experiences with students, particularly those from under-represented minority groups. I wanted to increase their awareness of career development options, and their competitiveness for graduate school and employment. To realize my dream, I took advantage of Pfizer's sabbatical program and spent a year at the City College of New York serving as a Professor of Biology and Director of their "*Center for the Study of the Cellular and Molecular Basis of Development*." I later took early retirement from Pfizer to join the faculty at Florida A&M University, where I launched that institution's first Howard Hughes Undergraduate Research Program in the Biological Sciences.

In 1998, I was recruited by former NCCU Chancellor Julius Chambers to be the Director of the Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute. I was intrigued by the opportunity to provide strategic leadership for this new Institute, first because it was dedicated to preparing students for careers in the biomedical sciences and biotechnology, and second because of its strategic location on the campus of an Historically Black University in the Research Triangle Area. I arrived in January excited by the opportunity, aware of the challenges, and confident that I could make a difference.

Our current Chancellor James Ammons has steadfastly supported the BBRI, building upon the initial vision of Julius Chambers to make it a model that other colleges and universities would seek to emulate. The BBRI has played a pivotal role and provided singular impetus for the formation of *NCCU's BRITE Institute* and a new *Nutrition Program* that will be located at Kannapolis. Together these represent powerful examples of how the University has leveraged the BBRI to expand its mission, capitalizing on strategic alliances such as the partnership in cancer research with the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

As the BBRI grows in stature and recognition it will continue to provide students with greater access to the most sophisticated tools of biotechnology, as well as prepare them to be competitive for jobs in the knowledge economy.

In closing, I firmly believe that by emulating my mentor Jack Goldstein, I am helping to prepare the next generation of biomedical scientists, and view this award to be an endorsement of my effort. I thank you again for this recognition.