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**PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

October 7, 2011

President Ross reflected on the events of this past week describing it as one of his most memorable. President Ross pledged to work together to ensure a strong future for our 17 campuses and the communities they serve. Next, he thanked Chancellor Brady, Chancellor Martin, and their staffs for hosting the events surrounding the inauguration and the Board meetings and noted that he was extremely impressed by how the two campuses continue to work together to build a great partnership. Next, President Ross commented on the musicians who had performed at the inaugural events. Their performances were phenomenal. President Ross noted that the undergraduate research projects displayed at the reception in the Alumni-Foundation Event Center were works done by our students to showcase the importance of undergraduate research and teaching.

Next, President Ross recognized Dr. Irons, recipient of the 2011 board of Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service, and the faculty throughout the University for dedicating their time and talent to public service. He recognized the Chancellors for their outstanding efforts in leading our campuses.

Regarding recent campus news, President Ross reported that Patsy and Ronny Turner of Blowing Rock made a \$10 million pledge to Appalachian State University – this marked the second-largest gift in the history of the University – and the funds would be used to support academics and student support services. Next, although a team of students from Appalachian State University who competed in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2011 did not win the overall competition, they won the "People's Choice Award" and tied for first place in the hot water production category, second place in the communications category, and third place in the architectural category. At Elizabeth City State University, they received an \$82,000 grant from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries to study sea grasses in the Albemarle Sound and Currituck Sound. Elizabeth City State University signed agreements with four community colleges in their region to broaden the scope of classes that students can take in a two-year program that would easily transfer to ECSU to earn a four-year degree.

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At North Carolina State University, three professors were recently named recipients of prestigious national awards – Dr. B. Jayant Baliga was one of five inventors awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Dr. Baliga, Distinguished Professor & Director, Power Semiconductor Research Center, was honored for inventing the Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor – an energy-saving semiconductor switch. He is also a past recipient of the Board of Governors O. Max Gardner Award. Dr. Michael Escuti, Associate Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering, received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Dr. Escuti was honored for his working on the frontiers of science and technology and serving the community through scientific leadership, public education and outreach. Dr. Robert Beichner, Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, Department of Physics, was named the recipient of the 2011 McGraw Prize in Education. This award is presented annually to recognize outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to education innovation. He was recognized for his groundbreaking work in digital education, which has transformed the ways students learn science in universities across the country.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, Professor Kevin Guskiewicz, a sports medicine researcher and leading expert on sports-related concussions, was among 22 Americans named to a 2011 MacArthur Fellows Program. At the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, the production of Rogers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma* would be aired on UNC-TV next week. President Ross mentioned that he had an opportunity to see the performance in person and it was fabulous. Next, President Ross reported that Western Carolina University received a \$250,000 gift from Mission Health System that will provide financial assistance to students who want to study in health-related programs at Western Carolina University. Finally, researchers at Winston-Salem State University, in conjunction with researchers from Virginia Tech, received a three-year, \$375,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to study the ways using algebra can predict networking activity of molecules which ultimately can lead to curing diseases and other benefits.

President Ross remarked that he had travelled to Washington, D.C. last month in part to support the team from Appalachian State University in the Solar Decathlon competition. While there, President Ross met with General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They had discussed the University's ongoing work with the military and opportunities for future collaboration. President Ross spoke at the Tarheel Network Luncheon attended by the North

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Carolina Congressional Delegation, their staffs, and other North Carolinians living and working in Washington. It was a great opportunity for the President to talk about the University. Mr. Bhula had joined the President at the Luncheon where they had the opportunity to speak about the importance of financial aid and federal funding for research. Our congressional leaders are strong supporters of the University.

In closing, President Ross announced that Vice President Leath was named the President of Iowa State University, effective February 1, 2012. He thanked him for his service to the University.