

PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
September 12, 2014

President Ross stated that this has been a busy couple of weeks for this Board. Just last week, the Board met in Cary for a retreat and election of a new chancellor for Elizabeth City State University. This week, the Board participated in a campus tour and the meetings on the campus of Western Carolina University. He thanked the members for their commitment of time, energy, dedication and intellect. He thanked the General Administration staff for all their hard work in preparing for these meetings. He especially thanked Chancellor and Mrs. Belcher and their staff for hosting us this week in recognition of Western Carolina University's 125th anniversary celebration. President Ross thanked Congressman Meadows for his leadership and service, in particular, as it related to the bill that Congress Meadows introduced that will exempt students from the Affordable Care Act. Next, President Ross yielded the floor to Ms. Teresa Williams, Chair of the Board of Trustees, for a special presentation to Senator Apodaca. The WCU Board of Trustees presented Senator Apodaca with Western Carolina University's Trustees' Award – one of the University's highest honors – for his exemplary service and support to WCU and across the state. President Ross congratulated him on the much deserved recognition and thanked him for all he has done and continues to do to support our great public university.

Reflecting on the activities of the past few days, President Ross noted how impressed he was with the caliber of students and faculty at WCU. Having toured WCU and hearing about the various academic, research and outreach initiatives that are underway on the campus has been an eye-opening experience. It really underscores how integral this campus has been to the economic and civic life of western North Carolina. President Ross commented on the previous day's policy discussion sessions on University Advancement and the University Centers and Institutes. Several questions were raised during the sessions and the presenters will follow up and respond with further detail and information.

President Ross recognized the Chancellors. He thanked Chancellor Becton and praised him for his strong leadership and resolve he has shown while serving as interim leader at Elizabeth City State University. He welcomed Chancellor Doug Orr to his first board meeting as Interim Chancellor at UNC Asheville. Chancellor Orr is president emeritus of Warren Wilson

APPENDIX A

College and served as Vice Chair of UNC Asheville's Board of Trustees. He is serving as interim until Chancellor-elect Mary Grant's arrival in January.

Recognizing several recent campus achievements and highlights, President Ross reported that *U.S. News & World Report* showcased several UNC campuses in their rankings of top universities: UNC-Chapel Hill was ranked 5th among national public universities and UNC Asheville was ranked 8th among national liberal arts colleges. Among regional public universities, the magazine recognized Appalachian State University, UNC Wilmington, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina Central University, and UNC Pembroke. NC State University was tied for 18th among the nation's best colleges for veterans. The *Washington Monthly* recently named several UNC campuses that are the "Best Bang for Your Buck" (colleges/universities that help low and middle-income students attain marketable degrees at an affordable price). Those universities included UNC-Chapel Hill, Appalachian State University, North Carolina State University, and UNC Wilmington. The magazine once again ranked Elizabeth City State University #1 among baccalaureate institutions for contributions to the public good, and NCA&T ranked second among national universities for recruiting and graduating low-income students. UNC-Chapel Hill ranked 36th in the world and 27th in the U.S. among global universities in the new *2014 Academic Ranking World Universities*. The ranking is based on indicators including highly cited researchers, papers published and indexed in major indices, and per capita academic performance.

At the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, the School of Filmmaking is ranked #13 by *The Hollywood Reporter* on its annual list of the Top 25 film schools in the country. In June, the magazine ranked the School of Drama #6 in the world. North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) has been ranked the 12th best public high school in America and 1st in North Carolina on *The Daily Beast's* Top High Schools 2014 list. NCSSM was also recently one of only 23 high schools recognized across the nation on the *Washington Post's* list of top-performing schools. At Appalachian State University, Professor Zack Murrell has been tapped to lead a 12-state, \$2.5 million project to create a digitized database of more than 3 million plant specimens from across the Southeast. At East Carolina University, the school received a \$200,000 federal grant to research ways to rebuild damage done to North Carolina's coastline caused by hurricanes. In a two-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, ECU is partnering to evaluate sand resources for coastal resilience and restoration planning through the UNC Coastal Studies Institute. Elizabeth City

APPENDIX A

State University kicked off a new E-Mentoring Program – an institution-wide initiative to help first-year students transition to college and give ECSU students access to professional networks for internships and future job opportunities.

At North Carolina State University, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences received a \$2 million gift from Gail and Joe Dunn that will establish the Adolph Warren Leadership Program. Adolph Warren's legacy is being honored through the gift to the college from his daughter and son-in-law to benefit students who have demonstrated interest in agricultural leadership. After graduation for NC State, Mr. Warren taught high school agriculture for 30 years. At UNC Chapel Hill, licensing technologies created at the school has generated more than \$7.9 million in fiscal year 2014 – more than double the highest amount of royalty income previously received in a single year. The figure reflects licensing revenues by companies that use University-created technology, as well as the University's sale of stock it holds in successful startups. Developing innovative technologies and new startups to help support the growth of business in North Carolina and beyond has been an area of expanded focus for Chancellor Folt. At UNC Wilmington, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship has won a \$50,000 grant as a business accelerator from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Nationwide, only 50 winners were selected out of more than 800 applicants. Each accelerator will be required to report metrics such as jobs created, funds raised, start-ups launched and corporate sponsors obtained. At UNC School of the Arts, music alumnus Kendall Ramseur, who is a member of the classical musical quartet, Sons of Serendip, advanced to the finals of *America's Got Talent*. Chancellor Bierman encouraged his fellow chancellors and others to vote for the Sons of Serendip's performance during the show's season finale next week.

Through the UNC Partnership of National Security, President Ross announced that the University has been able to promote opportunities for talented students on our campuses to gain critical hands-on experience working with the Department of Defense. With funding from the U.S. Army Research Office on a research grant, UNC General Administration sponsors UNC system students for paid summer internships at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USAOC). Selected interns work onsite at Fort Bragg for 12 weeks. One of those students who participated in the USASOC internship program this past summer was Mr. Ben Strawn. He is a senior at Western Carolina University majoring in engineering technology. President Ross called on Mr. Strawn for a brief presentation. Mr. Strawn spoke about his experiences in the program and the opportunities that he gained from his internship experience. His primary

APPENDIX A

projects that he worked on were creating display stands for exhibitions used in history museums, designing a charging box panel to house electrical equipment, redesigning Taser guns cartridges, and building an electronic explosive initiator. The U.S. Army was very impressed with the device and expected to produce and use these devices in in the field.

In closing, President Ross shared a short video clip of him taking part in the ASL Ice Bucket Challenge courtesy of his grandchildren. He challenged each of the UNC Chancellors to take the challenge.