

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

**January 10, 2014**

President Ross began by offering everyone a happy and productive new year. He was optimistic about the year ahead and he looked forward to the work ahead of us. He reflected on the previous day's policy discussions on tuition and fees and the legislative priorities. Further information would be provided to the members of the Board about those items prior to the February meeting. He briefed the Board on the budget issues facing Elizabeth City State University.

This week he had the opportunity to join several members of the General Assembly as they visited UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. In addition to touring the facilities, legislators saw presentations that showcased recent faculty and student research that addresses urgent public health issues affecting our communities. It was important for our policymakers to have a chance to visit our campuses to see first-hand the outstanding teaching, research, and outreach that takes place each and every day on the UNC campuses. In his capacity as a member of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Richard Burr asked Chancellor Martin and President Ross to both serve on the Senate Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education. This is a 14-member group that is tasked with identifying ways to reduce and streamline federal regulations and reporting requirements affecting colleges and universities, while still maintaining appropriate student and taxpayer protections. Vice President and General Counsel Shanahan testified before the U.S. Congress at the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee. He addressed the rising costs and growing impact of federal regulation and compliance mandates on our ability to carry out the mission of the University of North Carolina.

President Ross recognized our Chancellors and thanked them once again for the critical roles they continue to play in all of our ongoing initiatives. He acknowledged several recent campus activities and achievements. Ten UNC institutions were ranked in the *U.S. News & World Report* for online degree-granting programs. Western Carolina University (WCU) ranked #34 and NC State University (NCSU) ranked #81 for top online bachelor's degree programs and NCSU was a clear national leader in several graduate categories. East Carolina University

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(ECU), NC A&T State University (NCA&T) and UNC Charlotte (UNCC) also had graduate programs ranked in the top 25. Appalachian State University (ASU), Fayetteville State University (FSU), UNC Greensboro (UNCG), UNC Pembroke (UNCP), UNC Wilmington (UNCW) and WCU also had graduate programs ranked in the top 100.

UNC Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) ranked as the number one best value in American public higher education for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. Five other UNC campuses – NCSU, UNC School of the Arts (UNCSA), UNCW, ASU, and UNC Asheville (UNCA) – were among the schools that Kiplinger's concluded delivered an exceptional combination of academic quality and affordability. The *Military Times* recently cited FSU as the top school in North Carolina for military-affiliated students.

This past weekend, ECU and UNCC jointly hosted the statewide kick-off of an international robotics competition known as FIRST Robotics Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The event brings some 400 aspiring engineers to each campus. Each year, teams of high school students in countries around the world work alongside college faculty and community mentors to design and build a robot. The international finals of the competition will take place in St. Louis in the springtime.

Last month, the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) tapped FSU to receive one of its inaugural Champions of Access and Success Awards. FSU was recognized as an exemplar institution for successfully advancing strategies that increase opportunity, persistence, and degree completion for underserved students. Chancellor Woodson (NCSU) began a one-year term as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). He will also lead APLU's Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity. The world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, Autism Speaks, selected UNC School of Medicine research on the underlying causes of autism as one of the top ten advances in autism research of 2013. Carolina researchers published research showing how dozens of autism-related genes are impaired when a specific enzyme that is fundamental to brain development is inhibited. The work is part of a much larger research effort at UNC Chapel Hill, which is home to two Autism Centers of Excellence funded through the National Institutes of Health.

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A new report called “America’s Talent Crunch 2013” confirms that North Carolina is quickly becoming recognized as a key supplier of tech talent. UNCC and NCSU were both among the nation’s universities with the strongest year-over-year growth in awarding computer science degrees. UNCG is one of ten universities participating in a “research cluster” organized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to evaluate the impact and cost-effectiveness of various student success interventions. Data from the multi-year study will help campuses make more informed allocations of scarce resources.

At UNCSA, a \$500,000 professorship was endowed by the estate of Timothy Keith Cahill, Jacqueline Marts, and friends. The professorship will fund guest artists in UNCSA’s A.J. Fletcher Art Institute. At WCU, Dr. Chris Cooper, associate professor and head of the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs was named North Carolina’s 2013 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Cooper, who received last year’s Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, is an active researcher who regularly involves his students in his research projects. WSSU’s Class of 1958 donated more than \$100,000 to the university in celebration of its 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. It is the largest gift ever by a single class. The funds will go toward scholarships for students majoring in education.

President Ross reported on the Governors Awards for Excellence. Four staff members from across the UNC system received the 2013 Governor’s Award for Excellence, the highest honor for a North Carolina state employee. The recipients were Vice President for Federal Relations Rhinehardt, Herbert Bert, professor of international studies, philosophy, and religion at UNCW, Steve Clark, director of the Office of Classroom Support at UNCC and Eva Telles from NCSU. Former NCCU Chancellor Julius Chambers was honored posthumously with the Spirit of North Carolina Award. President Ross acknowledged Mr. Tom Howe, director and general manager of UNC-TV, who was retiring next month. He thanked Mr. Howe for his outstanding service of more than two decades.

Finally, President Ross announced the appointment of Mr. Matthew Rascoff who will join UNC General Administration as Vice President for Technology-Based Learning & Innovation.