

APPENDIX A

**UNC Board of Governors
2015 Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Award for Excellence in Public Service
Remarks by Award Recipient
Dr. Sylvia A. Flack
October 30, 2015**

“Good morning,

Accepting this Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service is one of the greatest highlights of my career.

Vice Chairman Bissette, President Ross, the selection committee Mr. Hood, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Powers, Ms. Wiley, and The Winston-State University Chancellor, Elwood Robinson thank you for viewing my work as being worthy to note in the history of our great North Carolina University System.

To my family, colleagues, community partners and my graduates who traveled with me today to share this honor, thank you for your support and your contributions to the efforts to eliminate health disparities in Forsyth County and North Carolina. I only wish that my parents, who taught me that all people and all communities have value, were here to see the results of their work. It is an honor to share this award with my colleague from ECU, Dr. Russoniello. It is a great opportunity to learn off your great community work.

The disparity in health of the people of North Carolina and our nation is truly a tragedy, taking its toll on many lives and costing our nation billions of dollars yearly in caring for people who prematurely succumb to disease and conditions that are preventable.

It is my desire that this award will serve to make many aware of the extreme disparity in disease and death and will move them to action. In general people of color and people who live in low resource communities have poorer health and shorter lives which has a direct relationship to their socioeconomic and environmental statuses. We live in a country where the price of good health is high. Good nutrition, healthy environments and quality healthcare is expensive and prohibited for some.

Governor James E. Holshouser’s accomplishment in establishing health clinics in rural areas with populations who experienced and continue to experience extreme health and healthcare disparities is certainly a model for all of us today. He knew the importance of good health care to all areas of the state. This award is an incentive for me to continue advocating for health and health care equity in establishing a healthy NC public. To the Board of Governors, thank you again for believing in my work.”

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