

**President Ross' Report
October 30, 2015**

President Ross commented on the new location for the Board of Governors meetings. The UNC Center for School Leadership Development (CSLD) building is the new site for the Board meetings. He stated that as a way to better utilize our limited space at the Spangler Center, UNC General Administration consolidated all Academic Affairs staff within the Spangler Center and moved the offices of the Chief Operating Officer, the University Secretary, Budget and Finance, and Human Resources to the CSLD building. He thanked the many staff members particularly Associate Vice President Johnson and his facilities team who have put in very long hours to make it all possible. He thanked Chancellor Folt and her staff for hosting the previous evening's reception.

President Ross thanked the members of the Board for their commitment of time and energy on behalf of the University. He publicly extended congratulations to President-elect Margaret Spellings and assured the members that he will do his best to help her get off to a successful start and ensure a smooth transition in leadership. He recognized John Fennebresque for his true commitment to the University and his dedicated service as a member and as Chairman of this Board. He thanked Vice Chairman Bissette for chairing this week's meeting.

Next, he commented on the two Public Service Award recipients – Dr. Sylvia Flack from Winston-Salem State University and Dr. Carmen Russoneillo from East Carolina University – he remarked that the University is blessed with great and committed faculty. Watching today's video tributes and hearing each of them talk about their efforts to help address physical and mental health needs in North Carolina's military and minority communities really drove that point home. In their own ways, they both offer living proof that the outreach and service provided each and every day by faculty across the UNC system really does matter and that it has the power to change lives and communities for the better. He thanked the recipients and noted that Governor Holshouser would be pleased and proud.

In recognizing recent campus highlights and achievements, he thanked the chancellors for their strong and committed leadership. He mentioned that Chancellor Robinson would be formally installed later this afternoon as the 13th chief executive officer at Winston-Salem State University. Next, he spoke about Dr. Aziz Sanghar – Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the School of Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill – who was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in mapping part of the DNA repair system in cancer cells. This great honor and is

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further evidence of the far reaching impact of the faculty research conducted within the University.

At Appalachian State University and NCA&T State University, each will receive grants of more than \$1 million from the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships for highly qualified students in the STEM field who agree to teach in rural, high-need schools. In addition, the School of Education at NCA&T State University received two grants totaling \$2.4 million to expand efforts to recruit students into teacher education and prepare them to integrate culturally relevant teaching practices into special education. At Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), the National Institute of Justice awarded the institution a \$956,000 grant to assist in its mission to provide aviation technology and research to support counter-poaching efforts in Kenya. At UNC School of the Arts, students, faculty, and alumni from the School of Design and Production were invited to help light the White House for its annual Halloween Party. They installed equipment on the South Portico for the annual holiday party. At North Carolina Central University (NCCU), the institution was awarded more than \$6 million and UNC-Chapel Hill's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center received more than \$5 million to support its ongoing effort to understand and address disparities in cancer incidence and death for African Americans in North Carolina. The National Cancer Institute grants will cover a five-year period and is the latest in a series of awards supporting the 14-year partnership between the two institutions. This year's grants will allow NCCU undergraduates to gain research experience at both NCCU and UNC, and will support collaborative research between the two institutions.

UNC Greensboro was name one of American's five healthiest campuses by Active Minds. The Active Minds Health Campus Award celebrates U.S. colleges and universities that are prioritizing health and demonstrating innovation and excellence in promoting the well-being of their students. Fayetteville State University ranked #2 among the 2016 Best Online Colleges by Affordable Colleges Online. At UNC Charlotte, alumnus Robert Niblock, CEO of Lowe's Companies, is donating \$2.5 million to UNCC's Belk College of Business. His gift will support the Student Center for Professional Development in the Belk College, which will be named in his honor.

At NCSU, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, Alper Bozkurt, has been named one of *Popular Science's* "Brilliant 10" for his work establishing the foundations of

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the “internet of bionic things” in areas ranging from human-animal communications to insect biobots to human health monitoring devices. Earlier this week, Chancellor Woodson and his wife, Susan, announced they will donate \$1.15 million to help launch a scholarship program for the dependents of NCSU employees. Scholarships of at least \$2,000 per year for a maximum of four years will be available to the dependents of full-time employees who are admitted to the university as undergraduate students and meet basic requirements.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked North Carolina 10th among all states for innovation, entrepreneurship, and high technology in its latest “Enterprising States” report. The Chamber applauds North Carolina’s attempts to leverage its top universities to boost technology and grow start-ups, citing the Governor’s Innovation-to-Jobs initiative, which was co-chaired by Christopher Brown, Vice President for Research and Graduate Education.

Last, President Ross provided an update on the University’s “reverse transfer” program. The program is open to students who transfer from a North Carolina community college. More than 1,400 students have enrolled at UNC campuses and earned their associate degrees while working toward a four-year degree. This collaboration between our two systems began in 2013 with a pilot project involving eight UNC campuses and 15 North Carolina community colleges. As of this fall, all 16 UNC campuses and all 58 North Carolina community colleges are participating in the reverse transfer program.

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