

PRESIDENT ROSS' REPORT
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

February 21, 2014

President Ross thanked Dr. and Mrs. Goodnight and the marvelous staff at SAS Institute for hosting the Board meeting as well as the joint meeting with the State Board of Community Colleges that will follow. President Ross extended his thanks, in particular, to Chancellor Anderson at Fayetteville State University and to Chancellor Carter at UNC Pembroke, who hosted the members of the Board of Governors and him on the campus orientation tours earlier this week. President Ross noted that every time he visits one of our campuses, he continues to be amazed at the talents and commitments of our students and faculty. He asked Chancellor Brady to convey his thanks to her students who met with the Educational Planning Committee the previous day to share their personal experiences as community college students who transferred to UNC Greensboro. He thanked the entire Board for the good, healthy discussions from the previous day's policy discussion sessions and committee meetings.

Recognizing several campus milestones and achievements, he reported at East Carolina University, The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants named Dr. Rick Niswander, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, chair of the CPA Exam and Board of Examiners. The Board is responsible for the oversight of the uniform CPA examination used through the U.S and internationally. At Elizabeth City State University, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund has pledged \$150,000 to provide scholarships for eligible junior and senior year students who need financial support to graduate. To qualify, the students must have a 3.0 or higher GPA and be in good standing at the institution. The program is jointly funded by TMCF and North Carolina-based Lowe's Company. At Fayetteville State University, Chancellor Anderson was part of a panel of educators who appeared before the Congressional bodies at the U.S. House Education and Workforce Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina. Chancellor Anderson was asked to discuss key FSU initiatives on his campus to support and better prepare low-income, first-generation college students. Last week, the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) announced its first class of HBCU All-Stars, recognizing 75 undergraduate, graduate and professional students for

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their accomplishments in academics, leadership and civic engagement. Students from all five of our HBCU institutions were honored.

At NC State University, Professor Ruben Carbonell, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering – one of the highest distinction accorded to an engineer – for his research and innovation in multiphase reactor design, high-pressure thin-film coating, and novel bio-separation processes. Chancellor Ponder at UNC Asheville recently announced her retirement plans. President Ross stated that Chancellor Ponder has been a phenomenal leader for UNCA. She has always fully embraced UNCA’s role as North Carolina’s public liberal arts university, and under her leadership UNCA has more directly focused on the needs of the region. The North Carolina Campus Compact, a statewide network of 38 colleges and universities committed to developing engaged students and building strong communities, named the recipients of its annual community engagement awards. Chancellor Dubois, UNC Charlotte, won the Leo Lambert Engaged Leader Award for promoting the University as a driver of economic growth and source of intellectual capital within the region; Professor Jim Cook from UNC Charlotte, received the Robert L. Sigmon Award for advancing the practice of service learning; and Emily Janke from UNCG was named Civic Engagement Professional of the Year for her work with developing systemwide metrics for economic and community engagement. Mr. Tim Bucknall, Assistant Dean for Electronic Resources & Information Technology at UNC Greensboro, is the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. He has fostered collaboration among libraries to help curb runaway inflation in serial costs, and to leverage cost and usage data across libraries to realize efficiencies in buying and accessing intellectual content.

Last month, the UNC School of the Arts won an Emmy at the 27th Annual Regional Emmy Award ceremony held in Nashville, Tennessee for its presentation of *Much Ado About Nothing* that was broadcasted on UNC Center for Public Television (UNC-TV). UNC Health Care also won an Emmy Award for the video “Spartan!” that was part of the “Real Doctors/Real People” and “RN Real Nurses” video series. At Western Carolina University, students will take part in the 2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) to be held at the University of Kentucky. WCU students had a total of 70 project abstracts accepted for presentation at the conference, an annual spring gathering that allow students from across the

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nation to present their best research. WCU tied for second place in the total number of projects approved by the NCUR abstract review committee.

Next, President Ross announced a few staff appointments. He welcomed Matthew Rascoff, Vice President for Technology-Based Learning & Innovation, who joined UNC General Administration last month. He reported that Ms. Gail Zimmermann is now serving as Interim Director and General Manager of UNC-TV since the retirement of Mr. Tom Howe last month.

President Ross commented on the new redesigned UNC General Administration website including the new UNC Data Dashboard that was developed in collaboration with SAS. He thanked Vice President Worthington and her team for their amazing work on the website and Secretary Goodnight and the SAS staff for their assistance on the Dashboard project. He explained that the Data Dashboard is an interactive, online database that will offer expanded access to detailed system data on selected core metrics. It is a natural outgrowth of our five-year strategic plan and will give University leaders, state policymakers, and the public an easy-to-use, customizable tool for monitoring, tracking, and assessing our performance and impact. In the coming months, the Dashboard will be expanded to include system and campus-specific data on transfer students, peer comparisons, research expenditures and technology transfer. President Ross mentioned that while other university systems have developed dashboards that display similar types of data, no other system has fully integrated the dashboard into its public website or have features as ours.

He commented on the progress of the University's review of campus policies for recognizing student organizations. In the last session of the General Assembly, bills were proposed in the General Assembly that sought to ensure that religious, political, and other belief-based student organizations could be established and recognized on University campuses. Every UNC campus has adopted policies that explicitly recognize that student groups that select their members on the basis of commitment to a set of beliefs (such as religious or political beliefs) may limit membership and participation in the group to students who affirm their agreement with those beliefs.

President Ross spoke about the Special Committee on Military Affairs. Vice President Rhinehardt was working on a UNC Joining Forces – an initiative to provide educational opportunities and research support for the United States military. The objective is for the University of North Carolina to partner with industry and non-profit organizations to leverage its

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value for the benefit of the military, service members, veterans and their families and the State of North Carolina. He thanked Mr. Jim Holmes, member of the Board of Governors, for his efforts in recruiting LC Industries to support this initiative. LC Industries has committed \$130,000 to this effort. The nation's largest employer of people who are blind, LC Industries operates in 14 states, operating 8 manufacturing facilities that produce well over 2,000 items. With two distribution centers and 31 retail stores operating on military bases, LC Industries serves all branches of the armed forces. President Ross acknowledged Mr. Bill Hudson, President and CEO of LC Industries, who was present and thanked him for becoming our lead partner in this initiative.

Finally, President Ross reported on the 2014 UNC Social Entrepreneurship Conference scheduled for next week, February 28 on the campus of NCA&T State University. Now in its second year, the conference will feature forty student teams from all 17 campuses who will gather to present their business plans for innovative, sustainable, business-oriented solutions to problems in communities across our state. Among the judges at this year's competition are three members from the Board of Governors – Mr. Hood, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Pickett. President Ross thanked them for sharing their time and expertise to assist with the competition. This year's conference will be keynoted by Terracycle CEO Tom Szaky and will feature panels with winners from last year's competition.