

**President Ross' Report  
August 7, 2015**

President Ross reported the UNC General Administration staff and staff across our campuses have worked diligently all summer. There was much work to be done in the months ahead. He welcomed the new members of the Board and acknowledged their vast amount of knowledge, experience and new ideas they bring to the University. He thanked them for their willingness to serve. President Ross commented on the state budget. Budget negotiations were ongoing. He thanked the members for interacting with and speaking to our legislators. He recognized Vice President Moretz and Associate Vice President Kappler for the fine work they continue to do in representing the priorities of the University to our state legislators.

Next, President Ross welcomed the new chancellors – Zito Sartarelli at UNC Wilmington and Robin Cummings at UNC Pembroke. Both chancellor began their terms last month and were off to impressive starts. Four of our chancellors who have joined the University in recent months will be formally installed into office this fall – Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Chancellor Stacey Jones, UNC Asheville Chancellor Mary Grant, UNC School of the Arts Chancellor Lindsay Bierman, and Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Elwood Robinson.

He announced Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, Emily Dickens, will be leaving UNC General Administration to join the Association of Governing Boards in Washington, D.C. Ms. Dickens has been a tremendous asset at UNC General Administration and he wished her the best in her new position. Next, he recognized the 2015 Class of Presidential Interns, recent graduates of our campuses – Brooks Artis, NC State University; Paige Marley, Appalachian State University; South Moore, UNC-Chapel Hill; and James Whalen, UNC Asheville.

Regarding recent campus achievements and milestones, *Fiske Guide to Colleges* named NC State, UNC Asheville and UNC-Chapel Hill as some of the best education bargains in the U.S., U.K., and Canada. The UNC School of the Arts and UNC-Chapel Hill were both named in the top 50 *Money* magazine's annual "Best Colleges" list. The Hollywood Reporter ranked UNCSA's School of Drama No. 6 in the world and the School of Filmmaking No. 14 in the U.S.

UNC Wilmington, NC State and Appalachian State all ranked highly in *Consumer Digest's* "Top 50 Values for Public Colleges and Universities." At UNC-Chapel Hill, it was named one of the top 50 universities worldwide for the number of U.S. utility patents issued in 2014, according to the National Academy of Inventors. Elizabeth City State University was recently listed as the #1 institution on the *Best Value Schools* website for the 100 Most Affordable Small Colleges in

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America. The *College Choice*, an online publication, included all five of UNC's HBCUs in its list of the 2015 Top 25 Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Last month, Appalachian State University (ASU) hosted the Appalachian Energy Summit – the 4<sup>th</sup> University-wide gathering focused on energy conservation and creating a more sustainable energy future. More than 350 people attended the event from across North Carolina and beyond. The University system spends more than \$230 million/year on energy and water. It is committed to significantly reducing its energy expenditures. At East Carolina University (ECU), it announced plans to create the first School of Entrepreneurship in the east. The plans were made possible by a \$5 million pledge from J. Fielding Miller and his wife, Kim Grice Miller. At Elizabeth City State University, Chancellor Jones has signed dual enrollment agreements with three counties – Hertford, Martin and Beaufort counties – that enable eligible high school students to enroll in entry-level courses in five disciplines at ECSU and earn dual high school and college credit.

At Fayetteville State University (FSU), the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education signed an agreement under the U.S. Department of Energy's Mentor-Protégé Program, that will support a two-year mentoring relationship. FSU is the first HBCU selected for the program, which will strengthen its ability to procure contracts, develop a mature STEM business model, and compete for grants. At NCA&T State University, Chancellor Martin testified before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture as part of celebrations surrounding the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Morrill Act – 1890 legislation that enabled the creation of NCA&TSU and many of the nation's other HBCUs – and spoke about NCA&T amazing advanced research including asphalt made from hog waste and the development of hypoallergenic peanuts.

At UNC Asheville, Chancellor Mary Grant was recently named vice chair of the board of directors of Campus Compact, the nonprofit coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—who are committed to enhancing service and civic responsibility through higher education. Also, Tammy Hawley has been named a 2015 National Science Foundation Scholar for her research into “green chemistry.” She is one of only two undergraduate students in the nation to receive this award.

UNC-Chapel Hill is leading a new Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence made possible by a five-year, \$20-million grant from the Department of Homeland Security. It is a big deal for UNC-Chapel Hill to have won this grant. It will make a real difference in the lives of

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North Carolinians, as well as others living on or near the coastlines of America. Later this month in Stockholm, Chancellor Carol Folt will have the honor of introducing legendary physicist Stephen Hawking before a public lecture that is part of a gathering of the founding members of modern physics. UNC-Chapel Hill initiated this rare and historic conference through the efforts of Laura Mersini-Houghton, associate professor of physics. At UNCP, charitable giving surpassed \$2 million for the past fiscal year – the highest total for non-campaign year in the history of the university.

At Western Carolina University (WCU), the National Park Service has awarded a \$436,000 grant to the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines to help produce strategies for the future preservation of infrastructure and resources at all U.S. coastal parks threatened by rising sea levels. WCU's program will be responsible for assessing the vulnerability of everything from the Statue of Liberty in New York to roadways that pass through the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida—and then helping the National Park Service decide how to deal with threats that may be presented by coastal flooding.

As part of the University's outreach to the military, UNC Online recently hosted and co-sponsored Patriot Boot Camp. In partnership with TechStars and PBC, it is an intense three-day event designed to inspire and mentor veterans and military spouses to develop technology-focused businesses. The event is provided to veterans, active service members, and military spouses.

Last week, 50 aspiring entrepreneurs gathered at the Center for School Leadership Development, where they heard presentations from experienced entrepreneurs and investors, networked, and met one-on-one with mentors to help them solidify a business idea and focus their fundraising pitches. The program included 33 veterans, 10 active-duty military, and seven military spouses from across the nation.

President Ross announced that six of our campuses and UNC General Administration will share in a \$2-million grant from Duke Energy designed to increase our ability to help meet the needs of regional employers. Participating campuses include UNC Asheville, UNC Wilmington, NC State, East Carolina, Fayetteville State and UNC Pembroke. He described each participating campuses plan to put those grant dollars to use. At the previous day's Strategic Directions Committee meeting, it heard the results of the Employer Focus Groups held last spring. During those sessions, the most common request from employers was that we take steps

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to increase the number of students who complete internships prior to graduation. That very same recommendation is found in our Strategic Plan. This grant from Duke Energy will support a substantial expansion of such opportunities.

Finally, President Ross provided an update on UNC Research Opportunities Initiative. The 2014 General Assembly made its first financial investment in our Strategic Plan—a recurring \$3-million appropriation to support potentially game-changing faculty research in areas of strategic importance to the state. A short video was presented that featured the research project underway at NC State University with the involvement of collaborators from UNC-Chapel Hill and NC Central University. These researchers are now developing new carbon-based materials for the next generation of electronics. Carbon-based materials may allow researchers to create flexible, transparent electronics that are extremely inexpensive. A wide variety of products could potentially be developed with these materials, including cell phones that you can roll up and put in your pocket; transparent solar cells that can be incorporated into windows of buildings; cheap, disposable medical devices that communicate seamlessly with hospital equipment; and much more.

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