

APPENDIX A

**Excerpts of Remarks by Chancellor Thomas E. Conway
Elizabeth City State University
UNC Board of Governors Meeting
March 4, 2016**

“I am honored and humbled by the selection to be the 11th CEO and 6th Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University. I take this challenge with a full heart of commitment. We intend to do great things at Elizabeth City State (ECSU). This is a great system that is comprised of great institutions and ECSU is one of them and will continue to show its prowess in getting better at what it does. One of the things we must be cognitive of is that we don’t get caught up in easy metrics up front that we forget that there are other important variables that we must look at also. The understanding that I have garnered over 40 years of working in the UNC System is ‘there may be some who do not belong in college, but none of us are good enough to figure out who they are before we see them perform.’ This is an important concept; it is critical context in which institution’s like mine operate. I ask you to support that context.

The cornerstone issues are – 1) Elizabeth City State is one of the most effective vehicles in northeast North Carolina. It is a critical element of the economy and is the economic engine and progressive development of that part of the State. In 1891, ECSU was founded for the purpose of spurring economic development. 2) We will continue to look at ways to do it better. I have begun to meet with business people from the Chamber of Commerce, superintendents of public schools, economic development officers to look at programs and services that can be brought to northeast North Carolina. 3) the benefits of what we do will accrue to future generations. I am going into this position with the attitude that we add value to northeast North Carolina; that we owe it to the citizens of North Carolina and the region to elevate the quality of life in that part of North Carolina.

I want to recognize my family members from Louisburg, North Carolina – my sister, brother and their spouses. My brother-in-law is an alumnus of Elizabeth City State University. We want to make sure all of our alums know we are committed to them. They are a proud and committed group and we are going to work every day to make you proud of your institution.

In closing, we are here to serve. I accepted this role as a labor of love. Elizabeth City is where I want to be; I intend to be there for a long time. With God’s will, we will be there for Elizabeth City as we set the new course.”

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