UNC President Margaret Spellings  
Remarks on North Carolina Central University Chancellor Election  
June 26, 2017

It’s my pleasure to nominate Dr. Johnson Akinleye as the next chancellor of NC Central University.

Dr. Akinleye is a no-nonsense leader and a strategic thinker. He has a vision for NCCU. He sees building a relationship with the campus and community leaders as a priority.

Dr. Akinleye’s career in higher education spans 31 years, holding leadership position at several public and private higher education institutions.

He also has a keen sense of how the UNC system works-- 10 of his years in higher education have been spent at UNC Wilmington and NC Central University.

Dr. Akinleye holds an undergraduate degree in Telecommunications (Mass Communication) from Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University, a master’s degree in Media Technology also from Alabama A&M University and a doctorate in Human Communication Studies from Howard University.

Dr. Akinleye has received leadership training from the Millennium Leadership Initiatives sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Rust College.

Dr. Akinleye was appointed Acting Chancellor at NC Central in August of 2016 and then Interim Chancellor upon the untimely death of Chancellor Debra Saunders-White in November of 2016.

We’ve had the benefit of watching Dr. Akinleye lead during a very challenging period at NCCU, and he is a solid and steady leader who would be an asset to the UNC team.