

FSU Needs To Do Better For Students

By Matthew Wynne
Contributing Writer

I have been at FSU for three years now and things have got to change. FSU's new promotional motto: "At FSU, It's All About U," has not fully lived up to this statement at all!

As a student in the Honors Program it is a deep concern to me that future Broncos will not be able to receive full ride honors scholarships through the university anymore. The Honors Program was truly the only scholarship that "covered it all" for many students and helped students get their foot in the door. Now it seems that the option is not available with the new changes implemented in the name of the "Academic Excellence Program."

As a student, I feel that the University needs to offer full-ride scholarships for students who exemplify "Academic Excellence" throughout their high school career. Fayetteville State has very few full-ride scholarships available for its students. FSU has recently only established the FSU

Scholarship and Chancellor's Scholarship that will be offered next year but they are only partial scholarships and not all students who enter into this university qualify for Pell Grants that would hopefully cover the rest of their college expenses.

Through my experiences and encounters with students, serving as a SGA member for over 3 years now, I have discovered one of the major issues with students attending this university has been, and seems to always be, financial aid.

A lot of students have become discouraged because they cannot afford to pay all of their college expenses and are thus forced to only receive loans that will eventually lead them to debt, drop out, or join the military. I feel that FSU needs to start offering more "diverse scholarships" to students in the various departments like other Universities.

I believe the University should allocate funds to scholarships for specific departments. Especially the current high-need career areas in society like: Education, Nursing, Biology, Chemis-

try, Mathematics, and other areas of study. I also believe the scholarship programs should incorporate student leadership building, career development, and moral support for students.

We need to utilize more resources surrounding us like local businesses, local schools, and the overall community. If the student clubs, organizations, academic departments, and business departments would collaborate more, FSU could be competitive with other Universities and be at the top of its game.

Lastly, there is a lack of good, quality customer service, professionalism, and competence in the staff here at FSU. Often times I have been referred to 5 different offices just to get an answer to a question.

I can truly say the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing at FSU. Students including myself have had so many problems with the academic departments, business departments, and financial aid offices because of miscommunication, or missing or misplaced paperwork that has caused individuals who were set

to graduate to not graduate on time.

I honestly believe the staff needs to be better trained, monitored, and assessed for their quality of service to the students, because believe me if you saw some of those employees in action you would have some choice words.

In fact that is why many students say they do not want to give back financially to the university. Because they have had negative experiences. Ultimately, the alumni reflect the future reputation of Fayetteville State.

I believe personally that these issues need to be handled and addressed expeditiously to ensure the success and survival of FSU as a quality HBCU. As a University we need to refocus our priorities and really make FSU "all about U!"

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Programs Should Focus On "The Murk"

By Ashley Smith
Student Advisor

In the last issue of The Voice (February 27th), we ran an article about students from Fayetteville State University that have partnered up with Chevrolet to give students an internship opportunity in business, advertising, and marketing. This article got a few of us thinking about what other projects FSU students could do for internship credit and experience in their career areas.

The first thing that comes to mind is the numerous possibilities for projects along the Murchison Road area. Not only has this area suffered from years of neglect, but the road also serves as one of our university's longest borders. The city of Fayetteville has recently announced plans for development along the road and has contracted a company to draw up land use plans for the area.

Our first question is: When development starts, who is looking out for the small businesses and residents along the road? Are they going to be forced to other areas, or does the plan protect long-time Murchison Road residents and communities. Instead of bulldozing housing areas and run-down businesses, are there plans to help current residents improve their own situation through tax breaks and economic incentives?

Students at Fayetteville State University should be asking these questions for the residents and businesses of the Murchison Road area. Years ago, when development began along Bragg Boulevard, many of the poorest residents were forced towards Murchison Road. Will this happen again, and simply create another poor area that gets a nickname

like "The Murk?" Or will city planners take the poor and disadvantaged into consideration and make providing for the poor a part of the Fayetteville beautification process?

Here is what students can do: First, if you are a business or economics major in a research class, use one of your assignments to do research on the economic status of businesses along the Murchison Road area. You could prepare an economic plan for failing businesses, help struggling stores develop marketing and advertising strategies, and could even work with the business as an intern to help them increase their profits and viability.

Communications majors could create a public relations campaign to get the word out about the changes that the city is planning for the area. We guarantee that most residents don't know about the future changes. Comm majors could also partner up with area churches, businesses, and residents to help voice concerns over the development of the area.

Criminal Justice and Social Science majors could look at the crime and drug problems facing the area and come up with creative and doable solutions for helping to combat crime and drugs such as an organized community watch program and research on how extensive the problems are. They could conduct survey research to gauge the community's socioeconomic condition and resident's feelings towards organizations like the police and DHS.

One thing that we at The Voice feel could really make FSU an asset to the community would be the creation of a Fayetteville State University Institute for the Study of Local Economic Development. This organization could act as the glue that holds different

FSU departments and groups together in a common goal, to greatly diminish the level of local poverty, starting with the Murchison Road area. This would attract a large amount of attention to FSU, would benefit the community, and attract people interested in research to the university. Students could use the organization as an internship opportunity, where they would be put to work conducting research and coming up with solutions to Fayetteville's socioeconomic problems.

We think that this sounds awesome, but maybe it is just because we thought of it. Let us know what you think. You can comment on the story at our website on www.fsuvoice.com. Or send an email to VoiceCopyEditor@yahoo.com and give us your opinion. We will pick some of the responses to print in the March 26th edition of The Voice.

The Voice Opinions, Editorials, and Letters:

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