

CAREERS

Briefs

Beatty, Rabon nominated for N.C. Utilities Commission

Gov. Mike Easley has nominated Bryan E. Beatty of Raleigh and Susan Rabon of Holly Springs for appointments to the North Carolina Utilities Commission. State law requires the confirmation of the appointment by the General Assembly.

Beatty has served as secretary of the state Department of Crime Control and Public Safety since January 2001, where he oversees North Carolina's primary law enforcement and emergency response agencies and coordinates the state's homeland security preparedness. Prior to his appointment as secretary, Beatty served as director of the State Bureau of Investigation from October 1999 to January 2001.

Rabon was a partner with a corporate law firm in Wilmington before going to work for the state Department of Justice in 1993 as special counsel when Easley was attorney general. In 1994 she became chief of staff in the Department of Justice, where she oversaw day-to-day operations. Rabon is currently Senior Assistant for Administration in the Office of the Governor.

The Utilities Commission regulates the rates and services of all public utilities in North Carolina including electric, telephone (including payphone service and shared tenant service), natural gas, water, wastewater, water resale, household goods transportation, buses, brokers and ferryboats. The commission is the oldest regulatory body in state government. It has seven members, each serving an eight-year term. The governor appoints all the members, who must be confirmed by the General Assembly.

Diversity touted at conference attended by local administrator

A North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University senior development officer recently participated in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) minority institute designed to enhance diversity in the profession.

Martina Chavis of the Division of Development and University Relations recently attended the CASE Minority Advancement Institute in Arlington, Va. CASE believes one of the key ways to enhance diversity in the profession is to create more diverse leaders. For the past three years, the organization has conducted the Minority Advancement Institute. This year, Chavis was invited to participate in this specialized professional three-day conference which focused on management, leadership, and mentoring of 20 professionals of diverse backgrounds in the field of advancement.

The program invites professionals that have the potential to rise to the ranks of senior management in advancement. Case studies and small group exercises are combined with lectures and discussion sessions. Each participant is assigned a professional mentor as part of the program.

Chavis has served as a senior development officer at N.C. A&T for the past six years and is a graduate of Hampton University.

Nationwide signs CIAA Deal

Nationwide has signed an agreement to become the "Official Insurance Provider" of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). This is a multi-year agreement that includes Nationwide serving as presenting sponsor of the CIAA Football Championship Game, sponsorship of the CIAA Men's Tournament Most Valuable Player Trophy and as a Corporate Sponsor of all 16 CIAA Conference Championships.

Under the terms of the agreement, Nationwide will receive exclusive branding opportunities including signage, and on-field/on-court promotions. In addition, Nationwide will support the CIAA Scholarship Fund each year for the multi-year agreement, participate in the CIAA Tournament Fan Experience, and hold on-site job fairs on all CIAA school campuses to focus on career opportunities at Nationwide.

Event planner starts firm

Linda Pierce Ilsley of Clemmons has established LPI Events, a company that provides full service destination management services including teambuilding activities, tours, ground transportation, themed events, event branding and entertainment. The firm has offices in both Clemmons and Raleigh.

Ilsley, a Certified Meeting Planner, has more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry and previously served as vice president of Destination Management Services for Sterling Events. She is a former president of Meeting Planners International's Carolinas Chapter, currently serves on its International Marketing and Brand Strategies Advisory Committee and has received the organization's Legacy Award and Supplier of the Year honor.

"Our goal at LPI Events is to be the bridge between our client and the destination city, ensuring that events and meetings take place flawlessly from start to finish," Ilsley said.

Jones will get national accolades

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Dr. Elva J. Jones, the chairperson of the Computer Science Department at Winston-Salem State University, will be one of five African-American leaders honored next month by the Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF).

The only national organization dedicated exclusively to cultivating executive talent among African-American IT professionals, ITSMF will honor Jones at its 5th Annual Gala Awards in Irving, Texas on Feb. 13. She will be among a group of other distinguished honorees. The others are Monte Ford, SVP and CIO, American Airlines; Dr. Randal Pinkett, Chairman and CEO of BCT Partners and the winner of "The Apprentice" reality show; Dr. Cheick Modibo Djarra, Africa Chairman Middle East & Africa for Microsoft Corporation; and James D. Cook, VP Data Center Transformation at Hewlett Packard.

ITSMF says that all of the honorees have made "extraordinary contributions to the advancement of Information Technology while continuously demonstrating proactive leadership in advancing diversity."

A native of Louisburg, N.C., Dr. Jones is a proud alumna of Winston-Salem State. As a WSSU student, she complemented her education by landing a job at the school's Data Processing Center. After graduating with honors, she accepted a position with the university as the first computer programmer, eventually advancing to assistant director of the Data Processing Center. Her love of teaching was born when she volunteered to teach a class in programming during her lunch hour without compensation. This effort was the first of many that would lead to unprecedented educational strides in computer science education for the university.

Jones continued to work at WSSU as she earned her master's degree. She developed a concentration in computer science at WSSU. This concentration was later expanded to become the bachelor of science degree in computer science. Jones took a leave to earn a second masters degree in operations research and a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and computer studies from North Carolina State University. She returned to her WSSU faculty post in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and resumed efforts to build the computer science program and establish a post-baccalaureate Certificate in Computer Programming. Today, the Department of Computer Science is a vital part of the globally competitive educational opportunities at Winston-Salem State University.



Jones

TRANS-ATLANTIC GIFT



PRNewsFoto/Webster University-Saint Louis Campus
Benjamin Akande, dean of the School of Business & Technology at Webster University in St. Louis, presents Timothy Olagbemiro, vice chancellor of Bowen University in Iwo, Nigeria, with more than 500 business, computer and math books for the Bowen University library.

Grants available to local teachers

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Teachers working in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system are being encouraged to apply for grants that help them better educate and engage their students.

The Winston-Salem Foundation is taking applications for the Sam and Anne Booke Teaching Awards for K-12th grade teachers.

Grants for up to \$1,500 are available. Grants are awarded in support of innovative and results-oriented educational experiences for teachers, which improve their teaching ability and enhance the subject or content being taught in the classroom. The grants are available for an individual classroom teacher

or a team of teachers.

Grant applications are due by Feb. 23. A panel of professional educators will review each application, and award decisions will be made in mid-March, with subsequent notification of applicants in April.

The grants are awarded through the Sam and Anne Booke Family Trust and administered by the Foundation. The trust was established in 1989 to improve the quality of life in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

For more information and/or to apply, visit www.wsfoundation.org/grant-seekers/types-of-grants/teacher-grants/ or contact Sandra Fishel-Booth at (336) 725-2382 or sfishelbooth@wsfoundation.org.

Accreditation body honors Holmes

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest University's Harold R. Holmes has been honored by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions.

Holmes, the university's associate vice president and dean of student services, received the SACS' Meritorious Service Award during its 113th annual conference in San Antonio, Texas in early December.

Holmes has served the commission in myriad ways over the years, including by participating in 30 reaffirmation visits to colleges and universities throughout the SACS region, which includes the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Texas and five other states.



Harold Holmes

Meritorious Service Awards are presented to those in higher education who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to and understanding of accreditation processes, who are respected by their peers for their integrity and the meritorious quality

of their service, and who are recognized as models of competency, creativity and accomplishment.

"Volunteerism is the key to self-regulation," said Phillip C. Stone, chair of the commission. "Self-regulation would be completely ineffective without volunteers like Mr. Holmes, who has committed his time and dedicated himself to sustaining the quality of the self-regulatory process."

Holmes joined Wake Forest in 1987. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business management from Hampton University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Fordham University. He also completed the College Management Program at Carnegie Mellon University and the Management Development Program at Harvard University.

N.C. lawyers helping homeowners

NCBA providing training to members to provide free assistance

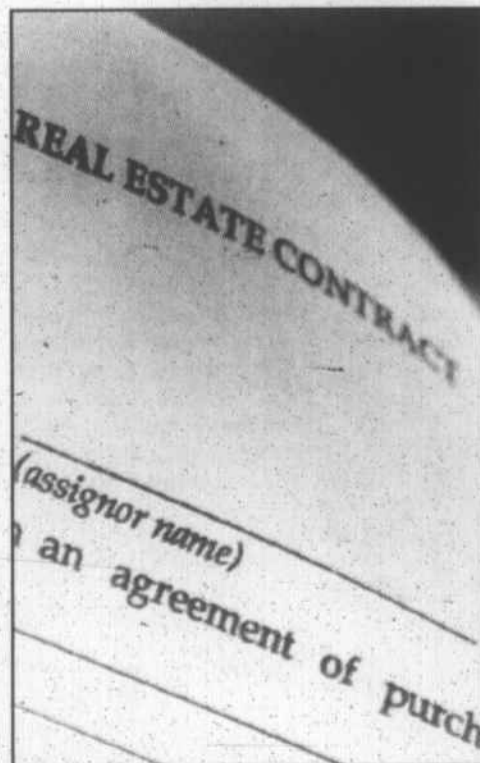
CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Members of the North Carolina Bar Association are stepping up to the plate to volunteer their time and expertise to help North Carolinians facing foreclosure.

In the last several weeks, the Association has held three continuing legal education training programs (in Cary, Wilmington and Charlotte) to train members on how to help residents.

"With our final training program that occurred recently in Charlotte, we have trained approximately 450 attorneys and paralegals to handle Red Flag Reviews," said Robert Allen, chair of the NCBA Real Property Section. "Additional training has also been provided regarding the negotiation and representation in foreclosure actions."

The training was provided free of charge by the NCBA Foundation to participants who agreed to handle two "Red Flag" foreclosure (those that are nearing foreclosure) reviews at no cost. The training program was developed in conjunction with the State Home Foreclosure Prevention Project of the N.C. Office of the Commissioner of Banks (NCCOB). The state program has become a national



model.

The NCBA Real Property Section, the NCBA Foundation Pro Bono Project and Legal Aid of North Carolina are working with the state banking commission on this

effort, which addresses three specific components of the foreclosure process: Red Flag Reviews, negotiation of loan modifications and foreclosure representation.

NCBA says that the urgent need for volunteer participation is enormous because the Office of the Commissioner of Banks cannot handle the onslaught of foreclosure-related matters.

"With the number of homeowners needing assistance, we need 'all hands on deck' to help make us avoid needless foreclosures," said Mark Pearce, deputy commissioner of banks. "The North Carolina Bar Association has been an invaluable partner in recruiting capable volunteers to pitch in on this project."

In the first month following the inception of the Foreclosure Prevention Project, the Office of the Governor reported, some 1,000 homeowners have asked the NCCOB for assistance.

Subprime lenders, who are now required to provide 45 days written notice before filing foreclosure proceedings, have filed more than 7,000 subprime pre-foreclosure notices.

Additional information regarding the Foreclosure Prevention Project is accessible via the Web site of the N.C. Commissioner of Banks at www.ncforeclosurehelp.org.