

# Maya Angelou Center's Dr. David Mount to lead human services integration movement

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. David Mount of the Maya Angelou Center in Winston-Salem has been selected to lead a new movement: a human services integration movement.

Directed by Mount, the N.C. Network for Human Services Integration to Prosperity is designed to address diverse expressed social justice concerns and community insecurity based upon decades of adverse psychosocial and behavioral health outcomes.

"Prosperity and holistic health equity through human services integration. We owe it to the nation and future generations to address integrated human service systems optimization that a decade ago seemed completely inaccessible," Mount said.

Stakeholders from across North Carolina are calling for integrated human services with both service users and tax-

payers firmly in mind.

Mary Annecelli, a longtime community advocate, stated: "Taxpayers want the public systems they finance to be responsive to concerns regarding systemic barriers to services as well as implementing strategies to address our concerns."

"Vulnerable people want a chance at prosperity but fragmented human services delivery remains a losing social policy proposition in great need of redesign," said Michael D. Connor, a professor of Theatre Arts, professional actor, playwright and director.

"This movement is essential as we must continue to remind ourselves that integrative health and healthcare is uniquely tied to the psychosocial determinants of health," said William O. Ntim, MD, Cardiologist and Cardio-Oncology Program director, Novant Health Heart and Vascular Institute Charlotte.

"An objective for the N.C. Network for



Mount

Thomas Coaxum, a longtime higher education administrator who chairs the board of directors at the Carter G. Woodson School in Winston-Salem.

Michael Wittenberg, a board director for CenterPoint Human Services Management Organization that oversees mental health, substance abuse and intellectual/development disabilities services in Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham and

Stokes counties pointed out: "The network's objectives are more closely aligned with a strategic vision for generating new ideas for improving human services integration, fostering data-driven decision making, growing taxpayers engagement and championing innovative public policy."

The Rev. Dr. Carton Eversley, a community organizing expert, speaks about Mount's qualifications.

"Dr. David L. Mount brings a diverse set of community engagement and leadership talents as an ordained Elder, a fellowship trained neuropsychologist, a National Institutes of Health designated health disparities scholar, certified foster parent, researcher, elected healthcare liaison to the Minister's Conference of Winston-Salem & Vicinity, and the past recipient of the Dr. Maya Angelou Service Appreciation Award at Wake Forest University School of Medicine," Eversley said.

## Prosecutors: No retrial for white officer who shot black man

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON AND TOM FOREMAN JR. ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — North Carolina state prosecutors announced Friday that they won't retry a white police officer who fatally shot an unarmed black man, saying that talking with jurors after the mistrial helped convince them they cannot get a conviction.

The jury deadlocked 8-4 last week in favor of acquitting Charlotte-Mecklenburg Officer Randall Kerrick, leading the judge to declare a mistrial. Kerrick was charged with voluntary manslaughter in the September 2013 death of Jonathan Ferrell, a former college football player.

"In consideration of the jurors' comments, the evidence available to the state, and our background in criminal trials, it is our prosecutors' unanimous belief a retrial will not yield a different result," Senior Deputy Attorney General Robert Montgomery told the Mecklenburg County district attorney.

Police say Ferrell wrecked his car on the morning of Sept. 14, 2013, and went to a nearby house and banged on the door, apparently seeking help. The resident called police, and three officers, including Kerrick, responded.

Investigators say one deployed his Taser without apparent effect on Ferrell before Kerrick fired 12 shots, 10 of which hit him.

Kerrick testified that he repeatedly fired because Ferrell kept charging at him and that he didn't think his weapon was even working.

Prosecutors said non-lethal force should have been used to subdue Ferrell, who played football at Florida A&M University. The two officers with Kerrick didn't fire their guns.

After three weeks of testimony and four days of deliberations, the jury couldn't overcome its deadlock.

"Our prosecutors believe they were able to introduce the relevant evidence and examine the witnesses, including the defendant, appropriately and that the jury fully considered the details of the case," Montgomery wrote. "However, meeting the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt could not be achieved."

The Ferrell family has settled a lawsuit with the city of Charlotte, receiving \$2.25 million. Chris Chestnut, the attorney for the Ferrell family, wasn't immediately available for comment, but Ferrell's mother told The Charlotte Observer that she doesn't think prosecutors tried hard enough to convict Kerrick.

"They didn't try hard enough. It was just another black life," Georgia Ferrell told the Observer. "They don't care."

She said two prosecutors called her Friday morning to tell her that the case would not be retried.

"I am going to continue to fight," she said. She

already planned to use part of the civil settlement for a foundation named for her son. "I am going to work on the foundation, continue to work for justice. It's not the end."

Kerrick has been free on bond. He is suspended without pay from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

On Friday, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Chief Kerry Putney said internal affairs will conduct an investigation.

Kerrick's attorney George Laughrun said his client is relieved there will not be another trial, but there wasn't necessarily a reason to celebrate.

"I think there are no winners or losers here, obviously," Laughrun said.

Jibril Hough, a spokesman for the Islamic Center of Charlotte and an activist on behalf of the Ferrell family, called the attorney general's decision "heartbreaking news." Hough said he had been on a conference call Thursday night with Ferrell's relatives to discuss efforts to convince the attorney general's office to retry the case.

"Two years later, Jonathan Ferrell is still looking for help," Hough said, "and just like that September night after he wrecked his car, doors are being closed and people are refusing to give him the help he needs."

It took two grand juries to indict Kerrick. The first refused to do so, suggesting prosecutors seek a lesser charge. But Attorney General Roy Cooper's

office tried again. The 14-4 vote by jurors to indict met the minimum needed to charge the officer.

Speaking to reporters in Raleigh, Cooper wouldn't second-guess his special prosecutors, saying they put on a compelling case and that the manslaughter charge was appropriate based on the evidence.

Cooper said the shooting shows the need for better and consistent training of law enforcement officers and pushed for pending

legislation to help with it. Putney this week said agency training is being changed and will focus more on how to subdue a suspect.

"The loss of Jonathan Ferrell's life is a tragedy. It should not have happened," Cooper said.

The Aug. 21 mistrial led to protests, as some demonstrators lay in the middle of the street soon after the trial ended. Dozens gathered that evening near Charlotte's

minor league baseball stadium as a game was in progress, and later some protesters walked through the city and shouted. Police officers stopped the protesters at one point from entering a covered transit center.

"I understand the frustration," Cooper said. "Our prosecutors were frustrated, but I think it's important that we listen to the jury."

Tom Foreman reported from Winston-Salem.



ENJOY YOUR HOME MORE WITH OUR FLEXIBLE, LOW-RATE HOME EQUITY LOANS.

No fees or closing costs, just trusted guidance.

If you're considering home repairs, improvements or upgrades, Truliant's home equity loans and lines of credit offer:

- Loan amounts from \$10,000 to \$350,000
- Low rates and flexible terms
- Easy application process
- No prepayment penalties
- Use for debt consolidation, remodeling, college expenses and more

HOME EQUITY LINES OF CREDIT

— variable rates as low as —

**3.25% APR\***

— and no closing costs —

If you live in the area, you can join. Visit, call or apply online!

Truliant.org | 336.659.1955

LIFE IMPROVED

TRULIANT

Federal Credit Union

Truliant is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender. (1) Not applicable in SC and GA. No closing costs if loan is not paid off and closed within 24 months. Appraisal fees apply if appraisal is ordered and the loan does not close. (2) APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms are subject to change. Loans are subject to credit approval. Maximum APR for Home Equity Lines of Credit is 18.00%. Available in FL, GA, NC, OH, SC, TN and VA only.

### Tweedy

from page A1

said.

After the death of his grandmother and being diagnosed with high blood pressure during his first semester of medical school, Tweedy decided he wanted to put all his

findings together to try to make sense of what was going on.

For years, African-Americans have questioned the health services provided by doctors and health care professionals. Tweedy realizes that the medical system has not always been kind to African-Americans and believes a lot of those feelings come from the times when hospitals were segregated.

"The health system hasn't always been so great," said Tweedy. "Not too long ago, they were

segregating wards, and experimenting on blacks without permission. I think a lot of those feelings are still lingering in the minds of a lot of African-Americans."

Over the years, the relationship between health service providers and African-Americans have improved, but is still a work in progress, according to Tweedy.

"There has been some progress over the years, but it seems to be uneven. It's kind of like one step forward, two steps back," said Tweedy. "It's going in

the right direction, but there are still some situations that are less than ideal."

Bookmarks authors have won hundreds of awards, including more than 100 honorary degrees, multiple Emmy Awards, 10 James Beard Awards and several NAACP Image Awards.

The 2015 Bookmarks Festival of Books and Authors will begin Thursday, Sept. 10. For a list of authors and storytellers attending this year's festival visit [bookmarksnc.org](http://bookmarksnc.org).

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Ndubisi Egemonye in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636 Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636



\$40

includes HOME COMING game

Reserved Season Parking \$60

336-750-3220