

UNCW links with global schools Etheridge welcomed to the Board of Trustees

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In an attempt to better connect the university to the rest of the world and address the needs of the university's 115 international students, the university has established an International Cabinet. The cabinet consists of 23 volunteers, mostly business and statewide leaders, who will donate their time and experience to UNCW on matters concerning international affairs.

"The whole idea of the cabinet is to raise awareness of the critical need to become internationally committed," Assistant Provost for International Programs Dr. James P. McNab said. "The university has to reflect the global reality of the world outside."

McNab said that the purpose of the international program and the new cabinet is to help our students prepare to deal with the world they will enter when they leave Wilmington.

The cabinet is one of the first organizations of its kind in the country.

After the first official meeting of the cabinet on Tues. Aug. 22, a reception was held in Madeline Suite in honor new cabi-

net members, past supporters and students.

"Our cabinet will play a vital role in building a network with international colleges and leaders that will dramatically benefit our students and businesses in our state," Chancellor James R. Leutze said in a recent press release. The purpose of the new cabinet is to prepare students for a life in a world that is very much focused on global unity and cultural acceptance.

The cabinet will be advised by a group of UNCW alumni who have participated in the study abroad programs, called "One World Alumni Ambassadors." The group will travel around North Carolina, speaking in schools, and relay the input they receive from these talks to the cabinet members. They will focus their speeches on how to improve international acceptance and understanding.

The university's international programs consists of study abroad programs and a strong foreign language department that encourages students to not only learn the language of another country but to immerse themselves in a culture different from their own. The university has also recently made an agreement with a French business school that will allow students to obtain a degree from either or both institutions.

the Board of Trustees

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The North Carolina Board of Governors recently appointed Jeff D. Etheridge, Jr. to UNCW's Board of Trustees at the board's quarterly meeting July 20-21 in New Bern. Etheridge, who has an expansive history in education, will fill the seat left by Jay Robinson, who died of lung cancer in April.

"I consider it an honor and a privilege to be asked to assist the university as it grows and prospers," Etheridge said.

As an educator in the banking field Etheridge has been located in southeastern North Carolina for more than twenty years, and he brings a vast knowledge of UNCW's cultural and economic needs to the university.

"Jeff understands the needs, the strengths and the potential of southeastern North Carolina," said Special Assistant to the Chancellor Mark Lanier. "[He] has the drive, energy, and ability to help the university achieve its mission for this region."

After he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at Campbell University, Etheridge served as an instructor at the American Institute of Banking. He then became an instructor at the School of Banking at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Etheridge gained administrative experience when he became associate dean and then dean at the UNC-CH Banker's Association. He also served as chief credit officer at the United Carolina Bank Shares Corporation, which was purchased by BB&T in July of 1997.

Etheridge serves as regional president for BB&T and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southeastern Community College Foundation, which provides scholarships for the local community college.

Other community involvement credits include service on the Executive Board of the Cape Fear Council of Boy Scouts of America and the Boards of Directors for the Columbus County Committee of 100 and the North Carolina Museum of Forestry.

"He's very involved in a variety of organizations and activities in southeastern North Carolina, which is very consistent with our goal as a university to continue to serve this



JEFF D. ETHERIDGE, JR.

region..." Lanier said.

Former BOT member Jay Robinson was named one of *Teacher Magazine's* ten most influential people in American education during the past century in honor of his successful efforts to convince legislators and educators to implement the ABC program, North Carolina's school accountability program.

"Jay Robinson was one-of-a-kind. His positive influence on education throughout North Carolina and at UNCW would be nearly impossible for anyone to replicate," said Lanier, who had a long-standing professional and personal friendship with Robinson.

Robinson's many professional achievements include positions as vice president for public affairs and vice president for special projects for the UNC General Administration. He served to the external affairs committee of the UNCW Board of Trustees, and received the Razor Walker Award for Educational Administration.

"Although Jay would disagree with this statement, it is true that no other individual had a greater positive impact on education in North Carolina in the 20th century than Jay Robinson," said Chancellor James R. Leutze in a May 31 article in the Seahawk.

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