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Governor Visits University Hunt Addresses Cluster Meeting

By Lynette Gutridge

"You don't really introduce this man; you present him. Some call him a politician, perhaps a great politician, but I would like to say he is a "mastermaker" of policy in government.

"It is very easy to say honorable; therefore I will present rather than introduce our Honorable Governor James B. Hunt."

These are the words that Chancellor Marion D. Thorpe used to describe the governor at the extremely successful Second Annual Corporate Banquet in behalf of the Blue Chip Scholarship Fund.

Even though this marked the fourth visit to Elizabeth City State University by Governor Hunt, it was the first time he had seen the Banquet Hall. The Governor's response to the new building was that it is the "finest meeting facility in Northeastern North Carolina."

It was obvious that the dynamic and gregarious Governor Hunt holds a sincere attachment to the University as he spoke to and about those around him. The atmosphere was one of relaxation as he addressed the audience about the comfort he feels while visiting the University.

In keeping with the ease and eloquence of his speech, he added that he knew the reason they had the "great" University Choir sing; it is because they knew "Jim Hunt loves that Choir." He went on to say that the group is the "best university choral group in America."

On a more serious note, the Governor discussed ECSU and described the university as the "University of the Northeast." He continued by elaborating on how the community should continue to support the university—this university in this community, for the economic growth it deserves.

The Governor contended that ECSU is one reason that North Carolina is the leader in the "struggle to open doors for all of our people in North Carolina." He maintained that he supports the idea of the mind being a "terrible thing to waste" and that in many cases "human capital" is more important than industry. He continued by saying that you must "invest" in other people and that this is the principle surrounding ECSU.

We are a "knowledge" and "information" society where success is achieved by one's accomplishments. This is apparent by the growth in young adults attending universities throughout the country. Again, this is why a university system must be maintained and supported by the people. It is possible that in the years to come ECSU could very well become much more than "the University of Northeastern North Carolina."

ECSU has over 100 full-time faculty, of which 53% hold the earned doctorate degree. ECSU is similar to an industry in the fact that it holds 340 jobs and is an economic asset to the area. It is a mainstream to industry and business future for this community.

Governor Hunt declared that "ECSU effectively provides the education, makes better citizens, and builds leaders who help to add growth to our system." This is the aim of this institution and it is a success.

The Governor then added, "This University is 'special' because of its mission, a mission to help the students who may have had little, yet these are the students that do the best."

In the closing statement by the Governor, he firmly announced that, "We all need to pitch in and find other support for funds because of major cutbacks. He continued, "If you want to see success tomorrow, you need to support the University today; get involved in the campaign to help raise the necessary funds for scholarships, because it is in this way that the University can be made to serve the community. Economic growth is the key to business and it is with this growth that ECSU, the industry, and the professional can be a leader through the University."

The Governor's closing address was well received by the audience who showed approval with its standing ovation.

"This University is special."

—Governor Hunt

"ECSU effectively provides the education, makes better citizens, and builds leaders who help to add growth to our system."

—Governor James B. Hunt



photo by Jim Reid

Hunt chats with COMPASS Editor

