

New Vice Chancellor for Institutional Development has far-reaching agenda

By Marty Jacobi

Dr. Denauvo L. Robinson, Elizabeth City State University's new vice chancellor for institutional development, said he accepted the challenge of coming to ECSU for two reasons, because the university is headed in a positive direction and because he was impressed with what Chancellor Mickey Burnim said during his interview.

As a result, Robinson now finds himself in one of the university's key administrative positions.

"I felt the institution was on the brink of doing some fantastic things in the field of education," he said. "I wanted to be a part of it."

Robinson received his doctorate of education from Grambling State University in Louisiana in 1964. He has worked as headmaster of a private high school, department head for special projects at two schools in Illinois and Pennsylvania and was vice president for a private secondary school in Mississippi.

Robinson has identified about 11 key funding sources including alumni, foundations, corporations, vendors, religious and other organizations, boards of trustees and parents and guardians.

During the 1997-1998 school year, the Department of Institutional Development's challenge was to raise about 10 percent of the approximately \$35 million budget from the university's primary funding sources as well as from federal, state and other kinds of grants, said Dan E. Anekwu the University's comptroller.

Robinson said his primary focus is to increase money for scholarships, especially for students currently enrolled. He said his goal is to help students meet their financial needs until they graduate.

"Every year we have students calling needing money to come back," he said. "I feel we have an obligation to help them graduate, to help them stay here before adding new students." Last year five students dropped out because of a lack of funds to continue their education, according to the university's counseling center.

Robinson said he hopes that once students have graduated and obtained employment they will, in turn, give back to the school.

Because ECSU is located in a rural area of northeastern North Carolina, the students have a greater financial need, he said.

Another of the ways that Robinson suggests funds can be raised is by employers matching the contributions of parents of ECSU students. He also encourages them to ask their churches for free-will offerings. Greek letter and other organizations are welcomed to pitch in, he added.

Second to helping students reach their goal of graduation, he said, is increasing enrollment from the 1900 students currently at the school.

"We're wanting the school to grow to 3000 students," he said.

Another funding source Robinson hopes to draw from is the ECSU faculty and staff, which he hopes will contribute 100 percent and allow him to more easily show the university's fiduciary commitment to potential donors.

"When we write a proposition to the Ford Foundation, it would be really great to say we have 100 percent participation from the faculty and staff," he said.

Besides providing money for scholarships, the funds are used to increase the school's endowment and assist intercollegiate athletics. Additionally, it helps fund small business enterprises through the university.

Robinson says that he is also working on increasing the university's endowment.

Fundraisers provide a portion of additional needed monies, and last month the annual Clifton Davis Celebrity Golf Classic raised money for ECSU and the Boys and Girls Club of Elizabeth City.

Money is not the only thing the school accepts. In-kind services - computers, library books, cars and even boats - are welcomed assets that help provide a service. Participants may also wish to include the school in their will.

"The community is involved with us and we want to be involved with the community," Robinson said.

Robinson is formerly from Piney Woods, Mississippi. His wife, Janis, is a management consultant and owner of Janis King Robinson & Associates in Elizabeth City. She provides organizational development, diversity training and conflict mediation for corporations, organizations and individuals.

They have a son, Devire, who attends ninth grade at Northeastern High School, runs cross country and studies Latin. Their daughter, Camille, is in first grade at J.C. Sawyer Elementary and enjoys gymnastics and ballet.

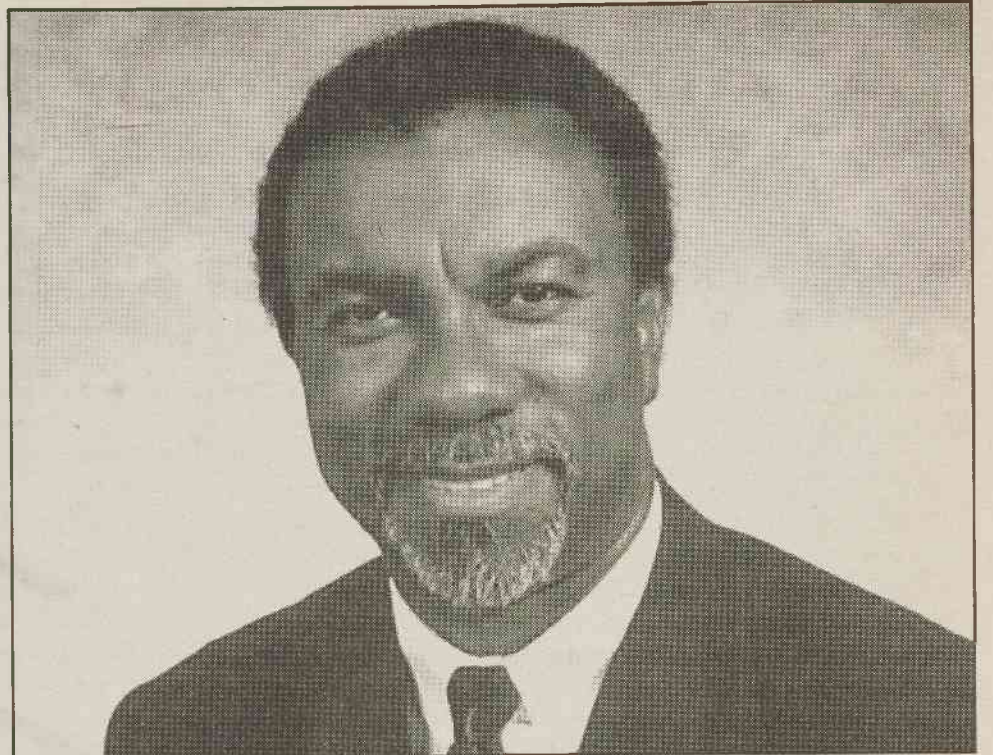


photo courtesy of University Relations

Denauvo Robinson

Sista -to- Sista

By Monique Boyce

I wanted to write my first Sista to Sista column about something all females can relate to. As I pondered different topics such as love and relationships, goals and ambitions, and pride and self-esteem, I experienced a phenomenal change in my life that I believe everyone can attest to. But I don't want to make this column seem like an avenue in which I express my personal joys, sorrows and grievances. Rather, I intend to use it to enlighten and strengthen my readers.

The column is called Sista to Sista primarily because I want to give our females a voice and provide us with a simple opportunity to experience a oneness amongst us; a chance for us to be "heard" and to "keep it real."

Even though my column is primarily for our female audience, the particular topic, I'm writing about is for everyone (By the way, we've planned a similar column called "Brotha to Brotha")

Now to the issue at hand.

There are times in our lives when we all feel like our obligations and responsibilities have gotten the best of us.

Sometimes it's true.

There are times when we take on more than we can handle. There are times when we don't manage our time well, we procrastinate, and/or we don't prioritize. We feel like no matter how strong or how balanced we are, or at least seem to be, we have lost control. Some of you may say, and honestly believe, "this could, and never has, happened to me." But take time to think about it

for a minute. I'm sure you'll come across some scenario of this type.

We women are phenomenal beings. (No better said than in the words of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman".)

We have an innate ability to carry on several tasks at the same time. We display our natural mother-like qualities to younger siblings, younger relatives, our friends, boy-friends/husbands, and for some of us, our own children. We somehow find ways to balance our physical, social, mental, and religious selves. If you didn't know you were phenomenal, girlfriend, then I'm here

go through terrible episodes of stress. I know you can recall times when you felt like giving up and letting go. However you deal with stress is your thing. You can exercise, relax in a hot tub, meditate, or pamper yourself. Whatever it is you do—go on Sista! But let me tell you about the preeminent source of relaxation for me, the one that's the real bomb what I do is: "Let go and let God!"

Mind you, I am not advocating Christianity and preaching God this and God that.

However, I am saying that during those stressful times in your life it's never unwise to seek help from your Supreme Being. None of us can go it alone, although sometimes we think we can.

Everyone will become stressed sooner or later, especially while being here at school, it's inevitable. Just know that you're never alone. Have faith and let life reveal itself to you. Life flourishes when one avoids negative influences, never harbors hate, never gives up, and never becomes overwhelmed with fear.

Let go, let God, and relax!