

Campus Echo

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NCCU lands \$466,000 grant

By Kendall Jenkins
ECHO STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Julius Chambers' vision of a thriving community surrounding N.C. Central University is one step closer to being South Central Durham reality and NCCU is a major stakeholder in the area's revitalization.

In September, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded NCCU a \$466,000 grant to revitalize and jump-start the once bustling communities surrounding the campus.

The grant is part of a program from HUD that links HBCUs to their surrounding communities. It emphasizes community involvement and self-help. NCCU will be teamed with the Eagle Village Community Development Corporation, the Durham Housing Authority, the City of Durham, and neighborhood leaders and civic groups to address a host of community issues in Eagle Village—a 1.5 mile

tract of neighborhoods, churches, schools, and businesses—that surround NCCU in all directions. The grant extends to other communities in South Central Durham.

Currently, all paths leading to NCCU bring visitors down narrow decaying roads through neighborhoods that were once swarming business districts.

South Central Durham, which is 92 percent African-American and includes Eagle Village, was once the pride of black Durham and North Carolina's pinnacle of black success. It is now tagged with the labels of "high crime" and "high poverty." Education, household income, and employment rates are the lowest in Durham County.

Eagle Village itself was first conceived in 1996 by Chambers with intentions of mobilizing student, faculty, and staff to help uplift surrounding neighborhoods and communities. Chambers hoped that a

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RASHAUN RUCKER/Photo Editor

This Fayetteville Street home is one of many in Eagle Village that may soon be renovated with grant money.

Chambers honored for law practice

By Christine Newman
ECHO STAFF WRITER

N.C. Central University Chancellor Julius L. Chambers was selected to receive the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Adam Clayton Powell Award for Legislative and Legal Perfection at this year's Annual Legislative Conference. The award was presented on Sept. 18.

The Adam Clayton Powell Award is given to those who have demonstrated a notable act and achievement in the field of law affecting the well-being of African Americans.

In the 1960s, U.S. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, a democrat from New York, sponsored the Powell Amendment to deny federal funds to any project where discrimination exists.

Chambers attended NCCU, formerly North Carolina College, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in history. He then earned his master's degree in history at the University of Michigan. In 1959, Chambers went to the University of North Carolina's law school as one of the first African Americans to attend. Chambers was ranked first in his class of 100 when he graduated in 1962.

At UNC, Chambers became the first African American to hold the title of editor-in-chief of the Law Review at a predominately white southern university. After law school, Chambers continued his education, earning a master's degree while teaching at Columbia Law School.

In 1963, Chambers was the first intern to participate in the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. A year later, Chambers opened his law practice in Charlotte, the first racially-integrated law firm in North Carolina.

Chambers was a lead attorney in the landmark 1969 case in which the Supreme Court of the United States ordered busing to achieve school desegregation in Charlotte. Since then, Chambers has been widely recognized as one of the nation's leading civil rights attorneys.

In 1984, Chambers left the law firm to become director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York. He returned to North Carolina in 1993, to become chancellor of NCCU.

According to Dimensions magazine, Chambers sees practicing law as a part of his lifelong commitment to advancing civil rights. In that article Chambers said, "Some of the students who are here now are children of those I represented 20 years ago. It's very satisfying to know that my efforts may have helped open more doors of opportunity for them."



Chambers

Hurricane Floyd scars Eastern NC

Leaving many uninsured people homeless, Hurricane Floyd has inflicted deep psychological and economic wounds in North Carolina.

By Rainah Simmons
ECHO STAFF WRITER

The news coverage of Hurricane Floyd is nothing compared to seeing the misfortune of Eastern North Carolina up close. The harshest reality for many North Carolinians is that it is still not over.

In Rocky Mount, store owners were amazed to see cash registers, washers and dryers floating into the streets.

Last week the eastern counties received more rain. This sent area rivers rising again. The children missed more school, local businesses had to shut down operation again, and people are still struggling to obtain housing.

The clean-up process has been a slow one. U.S. Public Health Disaster Mortuary team continued to help the state in identifying floating caskets. In Rocky Mount, the ground is moist and damp. It is so soggy that mourners are unable to bury the dead.

The death toll is hovering at 50 for the entire state. The cresting river has made it hard to be sure. Many people were taken under by currents; others have died trying rescue others.

People have been injured and killed by kerosene lanterns after trying to provide themselves with a form of electricity. People who work at hospitals, banks or prisons, have been injured or killed trying to go to work in spite of the warnings by media or family.

Rochelle Herring, a BB&T mortgage loan officer said: "I did not realize how bad it was until I got out there in it ... after I was out there I just called on the name of Lord to help me reach my destination." Herring, a Goldsboro native that commutes to Kinston, was shocked at the devastation just east of Goldsboro.

"As bad as it here we are really blessed," Herring said. "There are some folks that everything they ever had is underwater. A local family at our church lost everything to an electrical fire, but no one was hurt."

Mount Olive native Ruby Simmons, a nurse manager at Cherry Hospital, says she got stuck at work while the Little River crested around Cherry Hospital until it looked like a small island. She also said that she lost her best employee at the hands of the fatal flood.

"It looks like he was on his way to work and his truck just starting sinking," Simmons said. "He was still in his truck when they found him. I tell you it is just devastating."

The funeral homes have had to put corpses in storage until the ground dries out. Many families have to get assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Team to help with the funeral costs so that deceased family members can be buried.

The rivers are now full of human and animal waste and carcasses contaminating water supplies.

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'THEY MAKE MY DAY'

WILLIAM WATERS/Staff Photographer

Cortland Parker plays with a puzzle at NCCU Child Development Lab.
Inset: Mariah Alexander romps in the playground.

Daycare has personal touch

By Christine Newman
and Rainah Simmons
ECHO STAFF WRITERS

It's morning, just after snack time at the N.C. Central University Child Development Lab in the Diana Dent Human Sciences Building. Pre-schoolers are singing.

"Crisscross and applesauce and hands in your lap/Crisscross and applesauce and hands in your lap," a song that signals to all that it is time to form a circle.

"Head, shoulders, knees, and toes/ Head, shoulders, knees, and toes," they sing.

"They make my day," said Janise Baldwin-Brewer, an assistant teacher who has worked with the four-year-olds for two years. "As soon as I walk in, they just change my day."

Baldwin-Brewer says she likes working at the daycare because, with its two classrooms, it's "personal."

According to Baldwin-Brewer, the staff is working hard to create a comfortable atmosphere for the children and their parents.

"We make the child comfortable, once the parent sees the child is comfortable, then they are comfortable," she said.

There are two rooms—one for the 3-year olds and one for the 4-year olds. There are two teachers, two teacher assistants, a meals coordinator, and a director, Beverly Evans.

There are big bright red and yellow colored cabinets in both rooms filled with tables and learning games.

There are blocks and puzzles, a spot for "pretend play" with dolls, a kitchen, and a table. There is also a small computer with math and reading programs.

"The daycare is being exposed to new technology and IBM is donating a new computer," said Lavonia Brown, a teacher who has been with the center for four years.

This week's activity involves the three-year-olds exploring their families and homes. The children cut out pictures they have in their homes and create a family

tree on the door outside the classroom.

Karen Thompson, who has been at the center for two years, says that the three-year-olds work on different, self-helping skills because they are younger.

They need help with tying their shoes, zipping up their pants and buttoning their shirts.

Sarah Stroud, who has been teaching at the center for 20 years, says that she has a hard time not laughing when a child says something a child wouldn't be expected to say like "you just wait one minute."

But the center is not without its traumatic moments.

Mr. Fish, the classroom's fish, died recently. They had a "toilet funeral." The children also made picture tributes and a poster titled "Good-bye's to Mr. Fish."

"Good-bye fish. I like you because you swim well and the other fishy swims well too," wrote Adrienne, a child from the daycare.

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LaKeesha Austin serves to St. Augustine's.

The Lady Eagles cleaned up at the CIAA Round-up. But they stumbled at Mt. Olive. Can they still dominate the Western Division? See story on page 9.

Echo columnist Kim Arrington takes on the "black-white thing." Pg. 12.

Q&A with Dr. Jarvis Hall, chair of the political science department. Hall talks about his career, working at NCCU and student activism. — Page 5

Students transformed by Ghana trip. Kara Edmonds gets interviewed about her Study Abroad trip to Ghana. — Page 2

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