

# STATE & LOCAL

## A New Chancellor for NCSU Emily Hawkins, Staff Writer

When Dr. Hartford announced her retirement in February 2010, Meredith began a leadership transition that was formally instated when the presidential search committee was formed in June. Many lessons can be learned from North Carolina State University which recently went through a search for a new chancellor, especially since the search committee's work here is currently underway. In a similar process, the university founded a chancellor search committee and held open forums to receive important student and faculty feedback. The search, which took a little over a year, culminated in the selection of Dr. Randy Woodson.

Woodson, a horticulture specialist, studied at the University of Arkansas and Cornell University. After receiving his PhD, he taught briefly at Louisiana State University, but settled at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana in 1985. He moved up through the ranks at Purdue, holding many titles including director of the Plant Biology

Program, Dean of Agriculture, and most recently, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Woodson has won numerous awards for his horticultural work, including the Sagamore of the Wabash Award (the highest service award presented by Indiana's governor) and American Society for Horticultural Science Outstanding Researcher Career Award.

Woodson was installed as the fourteenth Chancellor on the morning of October 26 and will formally begin duties in April. His installation speech emphasized the importance of student success, which can be measured by graduation and inspiration. He said that a successful university asked itself a few important questions on a regular basis: "Do students have access, do they get their degree and, somewhere along the way, did we inspire them to lead, to serve, to challenge, to take the initiative, to see past their perceived limitations."

Another area he wants to build on is "engagement and economic devel-

opment," which entails working with local businesses, the Department of Commerce, cooperatives, and other organizations to promote connections. Innovation was also emphasized in his speech saying, "It is not always easy to be innovative in a world that moves so much faster than a university moves," but that the university should "look for ways to better promote and reward innovation in all aspects of our organization."

Woodson discussed many innovative ideas and areas to improve on during his speech and will continue to job shadow, meet students and faculty, and learn about the campus in order to be prepared to take on the job of Chancellor in April.

Meredith can learn from North Carolina State University's selection

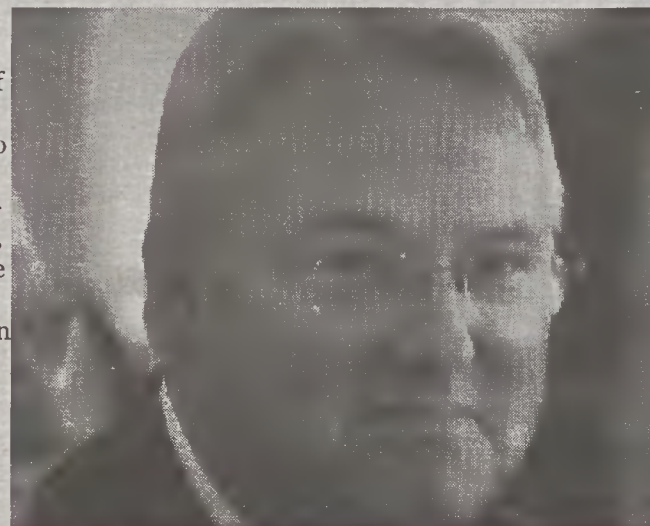


image via <http://www.ncsu.edu/bulletin/archive/2010/01/01-14/woodson-questions.php>

process in order to find the best president for our university, as well as adapt Woodson's innovative ideas to catapult our college into the twenty first century.

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#### Mission Statement:

The staff of The Meredith Herald is committed to representing our diverse community by publicizing local events, by addressing controversy, by cultivating civic engagement and by empowering women.

Published by Hinton Press

The Meredith Herald is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the College and through independent advertising.

## Four Loko: Banning the Booze

Ashleigh Phillips, Staff Writer

"There's no redeeming social purpose to be served by having the beverage," Ramapao College President Peter Mercer told The Associated Press after he banned Four Loko on his campus. Ramapao took action after nearly two dozen of his students were hospitalized for alcohol poisoning soon after the start of the fall semester. Many other colleges have followed Ramapao's lead in banning the popular drink nicknamed "blackout in a can" and "liquid cocaine" including Central Washington University. On October 8, police were called to a house party in Roslyn, Washington that was being thrown by Central Washington students. Police found many young people passed out throughout the house and on the front lawn leading to initial fears that the partiers had been drugged. After further investigation the police discovered that the wasted scene was due to Four Loko. Police estimate that some fifty students were sick after drinking large consumptions of the drink, while nine students were sent to the hospital. In a news conference, the University announced that the blood alcohol content of the students ranged from .12 percent to .335 percent. In Washington 0.08 is the legal limit for intoxication. Just 0.3 can be lethal. This incident has led Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna to push the FDA to ban Four

Loko nationwide. Attorney Generals in California, New York, and New Jersey have also called for federal investigations following incidents involving college students in those states. But it is not likely that these commonly occurring incidents will diminish the popularity of Four Lokos in young partiers. The Four Loko website describes it's fruit punch flavor of the malt beverage as "a wild mix of taurine, guarana, caffeine, and 12 percent alcohol by volume" that has "a crazy fruit punch flavor packed in a 23.5 ounce can." This is about as much alcohol found in a six pack of beer and as much caffeine in five cups of coffee. An unnamed Meredith sophomore says that the caffeine in the drink "doesn't make me feel as tired as when I drink other drinks and I feel like I can party longer." The need to party longer and the fact that Four Loko is about \$2.50 a can, has gained the drink an enthusiastic following among young partiers. There are a variety of YouTube videos that show young people chugging from brightly colored Loko cans while dancing to Loko theme songs that can be downloaded as MP3s and ring tones. The Four Loko website also promotes responsible drinking and provides links to such topics as "Drunk Driving Prevention" and "Knowing Your Limits," as do other websites for the twenty six FDA registered manufacturers of caffeinated alcoholic beverage.

In a lawsuit cited study by the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, researchers found that young drinkers of the so-called alcospeed beverages were more likely to binge drink, become injured, ride with an intoxicated driver or be taken advantage of sexually than drinkers of conventional alcoholic drinks. But most partiers drink Four Loko knowing the side effects and the fact that there probably will be "no redeeming social purpose" in drinking it. Meredith senior Brittany Forlidas offers sensible insight, "Four Loco, like any alcoholic drink, should be enjoyed in moderation. The drink is known for its high alcohol and caffeine levels and is well labeled. Most individuals who consume the beverage do so knowing the effect that it will have. I don't think that there is anything wrong with the beverage and like any others that contain alcohol it should be consumed responsibly." While Attorney Generals make their case to the FDA, the fact is parties like the one in Roslyn, Washington will continue to rage on. In light of this fact the most valuable solution may be for less intense hangovers, just rage in moderation.