

CAROLINA Indian Voice

*"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"*Pembroke, NC
Robeson County

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Pembroke Native Appointed to Commission



NCAE President Rose Marie Lowry, a native of Pembroke, has been appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the Commission on Workforce Preparedness. Lowry is on leave from her principalship at Union Elementary School in Rowland.

The Commission of 40 appointees is charged with coordinating all state administered workforce preparedness programs, including federal employee training programs, state vocational education, remedial education, and other job training programs. The Commission will oversee the spending of more than \$600 million on these programs.

"There is nothing more important to the economic future of North Carolina than workforce training," said Lowry. "Building a highly skilled and highly educated workforce will help us attract good jobs to the state."

In addition to seeing that dollars are spent more effectively and workers receive adequate training and retraining, the Commission will also advise the Governor, the General Assembly, state agencies and private businesses about policies and programs designed to enhance the skills of the state's workforce.

"As a member of the Commission, I hope I can help the public and private sectors upgrade worker skills, streamline training programs and build a workforce in North Carolina that is world competitive," added Lowry.

Lowry's term began on July 1.



Dr. Norman Jean Thompson who is retiring after 33 years of service to the State of North Carolina, was recently presented many gifts at a Pembroke State University luncheon in her honor. She is recognized as the first Lumbee woman to hold a doctoral degree. She has been dean of records and special programs at PSU since '81. Making the presentation here was Joyce Singletary, PSU registrar. Dr. Thompson was also presented a Memory Book by Brenda Lowry. Her other gifts included a plate commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Roanoke Voyage to North Carolina; Tom Clark gnome statuettes; a plate depicting the Wedding Feast at Cana by Gregory Perillo; and Mesa Verde pottery.

Say You Read It In
Carolina Indian Voice

TRADITIONALISTS' CORNER

NEA American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus Honors Agnes Chavis

During the 131st National Conference of the National Education Association convening in San Francisco, California in early July, the American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus recognized the outstanding leadership and contributions of Agnes H. Chavis, retired Lumbee educator, to education at the local, state, and national levels.

Robert (Bob) Marley, Cherokee of Wichita, Kansas, Chair-elect, and other members of the American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus, organized a traditional honoring ceremony and presented Ms. Chavis with an Eagle Feather, a symbol of leadership. In addition to the presentation of the Eagle Feather, Ms. Chavis was honored with other gifts from Caucus members representative of several tribes. Raymond Mitchell, Upper Skagit of Edmond,



Mrs. Agnes Chavis
Washington, presented a handcrafted cedar feather box created by traditional artisans and representative of the King Salmon. Colleen Ford,

Chippewa of Flint, Michigan, presented a hand-made sweater of traditional design, and Debbie Houge-Downing, Choctaw of Oklahoma, presented a hand-made brooch with two sculpted Eagle feathers.

Ms. Chavis has been active at the local, state, and national levels of the National Education Association since the early 1960's, and since 1975, she has held numerous elected and appointed positions. Although she retired from active service in 1990, Ms. Chavis continues to serve the organization as Chairperson of the American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus and as an elected representative of the NEA (National Education Association of Retirees) to the National Resolutions Committee and will also represent the Caucus on the National NEA Political Action Committee (NEA-PAC).

Freshmen Legislators Present Gift To Speaker Of The House

Written by
REP. RON SUTTON

Representative Dan Blue, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, was presented with an oil painting by the first-term legislators on Thursday, July 22, 1993, in the General Assembly in Raleigh.

It is a standing tradition that the "Freshman" legislators present the Speaker with a gift. This year, however, the presentation had special meaning.

The Freshman gift was an original oil painting by Robeson County's own artist Gene Locklear, who now lives in San Diego, CA. The painting is a rural winter Robeson County farm setting featuring a young boy and his dog near a decaying tobacco barn. Speaker Blue, who is also originally from rural Robeson County, commented on how much this special gift meant to him.

The gift was escorted into the House Chamber by a delegation of ten Freshmen House Members. Leading the group were the three Freshman Members representing Robeson County. Representatives Ron Sutton, Frances Cummings, and Dewey Hill.

As part of the public ceremony, each of the three addressed the House. Representative Sutton gave the history and background of Gene Locklear. Gene, a Lumbee Indian and former professional baseball player, played with the Cincinnati Reds, San Diego Padres, and New York Yankees. Now retired from baseball, he devotes his life to painting.

Gene Locklear was the 1993 artist for the Robeson County Historical Drama, "Strike at the Wind." His painting of a Henry Berry Lowry scene sold for \$11,500.00 recently at

the "Strike at the Wind" Art Auction.

Representative Frances Cummings commended the Speaker for his leadership in working with, supporting and challenging the 42 Member Freshman Class.

Representative Dewey Hill spoke on behalf of Gene Locklear's Art work. He stated that several of Gene's art works are on display in the Food Folks Grocery Store in Pembroke. He then introduced the entire Freshman Class for recognition.

Speaker Blue stated that this year's first term legislators were by far the best he had ever seen during his tenure in the House.

Although the gift is a personal present to Speaker Blue, it will be on display for guests to see as they visit the Speaker's office in the General Assembly.

Traditional Dance Classes Available

Traditional classes are being held each Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. the gym of the former Pembroke Middle School. Instructor for the classes is Tony Clark. He is teaching traditional dancing, singing and drumming. The classes are free to anyone wishing to learn traditional dancing, singing or drumming. Ages are from 2 years to adult.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to meet at the gym of the former Pembroke Middle School which is now the American Indian Center for Cultural Development.

by Connie Brayboy

Dr. J.G. Jones receives professorship

Dr. James G. Jones, a national leader in the fields of family medicine and rural health care, has been selected to hold a newly endowed professorship at the School of Medicine.

Jones, the founding chairman of the school's Department of Family Medicine, was appointed to assume the Berbecker Distinguished Professorship in Rural Medicine.

The Berbecker Professorship was established in September with the support of a \$333,000 gift from the Berbecker Foundation of New York. The Medical Foundation of ECU matched the gift with \$167,000 to create the \$500,000 endowment required to fund the professorship.

"When we received the generous gift from the Berbecker Foundation, we didn't have to look far to find an appropriate candidate for the professorship it creates," said Dr. James A. Hallock, ECU vice chancellor for health sciences and dean of the medical school. "Dr. Jim Jones is recognized as one of the country's most knowledgeable leaders on the subject of rural medicine."

The Berbecker Foundation has ties to eastern North Carolina through its creator, the late Lille A. Webb, formerly of Morehead City. The endowment of the professorship builds upon earlier contributions to ECU health sciences programs by the foundation.

Jones, a Lumbee Indian, rose from a modest background in Robeson County to become a national leader in family medicine. After establishing a successful medical practice in Jacksonville in the 1960's and early 70's he cast his lot with the fledgling ECU School of Medicine, becoming the first chairman of its Department of Family Medicine.

He has served as president of both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians. He currently serves as a member of the National Advisory Council on Health Professions Education and as chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Improving the Health of Native Americans Program. In 1988 he was named the country's Indian Physician of the Year.

Lumbee Tribe Meets To Draft A Lumbee Tribal Constitution

On July 31, 1993 Delegates selected by Indian churches will be meeting at the Indian Education Resource Center in Pembroke to begin deliberations toward drafting a tribal constitution. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and is expected to conclude at 3:00 p.m.

While the Lumbee Tribe may organize at any time under a tribal constitution, the Lumbee bill requires the tribal members to adopt a tribal constitution should the bill be enacted into law.

The Assembly is supported by a \$7,000 grant from the General Commission on Religion and Race, United Methodist Church. Delegates, however, represent most all church denominations among the Lumbee. Once the Delegates have completed their deliberations, the draft constitution will be presented to the Lumbee Tribe through a series of public hearings. A random polling of tribal opinion may be conducted to assess majority tribal opinion on controversial issues. After the public comment period, Delegates may modify or make changes to the Constitution. The final step, adoption of the Constitution by members, would be completed through an election in which adult members of the tribe are provided a copy of the tribal constitution and asked to vote for or against the constitution.

Advisors to the Delegates include: Dr. Arlinda Locklear, Attorney representing the tribe on the Lumbee bill; the Indian Law Unit, Lumbee River Legal Services; and Mr. Leon Jacobs, Director of Indian Housing, HUD.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact Ruth B. Locklear at the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372; (919) 521-2462. Tribal members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

by Connie Brayboy



Dr. Norma Jean Thompson (seated), retiring dean of records and special programs at Pembroke State University, is surrounded by members of her family at the PSU retirement luncheon in her honor. Left to right, standing are: her son, Vernon, of Pembroke; daughter, Lydia Hayes of Laurinburg; daughter, Lori Deese of Raleigh; and son-in-law, Christopher Hayes. Seated beside Dr. Thompson are her grandson, Jordan Hayes (left) and granddaughter, Whitney Hayes (right) both of Laurinburg.