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## NCCU Earns Top 10 Position on 2015 Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Choice Rankings

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) is ranked 10th in the country among Historically Black Colleges and Universities by College Choice, an independent online publication for college-bound students and their families.

The top-10 listing cites NCCU's research endeavors in areas such as biomedicine, mathematics and health science, as well as its School of Library and Information Sciences, which has produced more African-American librarians than any other higher education institution.

"NCCU is honored to consistently receive top ranking among universities throughout the country," said NCCU Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. "It is an indication of the confidence in this historic institution's ability to prepare students as 21st century scholars and to prepare them for successful careers."

The 2015 Ranking of Historically Black Colleges and Universities by College Choice was based on responses from college freshmen concerning factors leading to their college decision. The Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles lists



among those factors academic reputation, financial aid, overall cost and post-college employment rates.



REV. WILLIAM BARBER

## Moral Monday leader inspires protests, arrests and action

By Martha Waggoner

GOLDSBORO (AP) - The Rev. William Barber walks gingerly with a cane, in a hunched-over posture, yet here he is on a recent Monday, leading 3,500 protesters on a downtown street.

He says God must have a sense of humor to call on a man who has such difficulty walking to lead the Moral Monday protests that began in North Carolina two years ago.

Barber's speeches and his throwback tactics - in vogue again following several deaths of black men at the hands of police - draw comparisons to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. More than 1,000 demonstrators have been arrested for civil disobedience in North Carolina since Barber, president of the state NAACP, started the legislative protests.

The demonstrations have spread to at least half a dozen other states and given him minor celebrity status. Supporters wear "I went to jail with Rev. Barber" buttons. Barber has been jailed five times himself.

"What I know is what we are in is a time when we can't afford to be silent," Barber said, perched against a tall stool in his office at his church in Goldsboro. "We are battling for the soul and consciousness of this country."

The protests target conservative politics and Republicans, who took control of the North Carolina Statehouse and governor's office in 2013, and cover everything from redistricting to labor laws to women's rights, gay rights and the environment. Moral Mondays are the legislative protest piece of the broader Forward Together movement led by the NAACP, which is in court over the state's new voting law and will be back in court next month to challenge redistricting.

Detractors accuse Barber of grandstanding or say he is continuously repeating himself and not worth their time. A former state senator once called his movement "Moron Monday."

His supporters say his leadership is reminiscent of both King and Ella Baker, who helped form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1960.

"I think he's tremendously courageous," said Eddie Glaude Jr., a religion and African-American studies professor at Princeton University. "He's concerned about the state of black America, the state of brown America. He's concerned about the LGBTQ community. He's concerned about the most marginalized."

Scholar and civil rights activist Cornel West, who is friends with Barber, describes him as "the only King-like figure we have in the country right now."

"I have just been overwhelmed by his intellectual and spiritual power," West said.

To understand Barber's desire to help the disenfranchised is to know his father's influence. Almost every story Barber tells somehow references Buster Barber, who would point to Jesus' first sermon, when he said he had been anointed "to proclaim good news to the poor."

"And my father was very clear that to be Christian, to follow Jesus is to be concerned about the weightier matters of the law, of justice and mercy," Barber said.

He was 4 years old when his parents returned from Indianapolis to his father's roots in eastern North Carolina, called there by local leaders who wanted their help with desegregating the schools. His father, now deceased, was an educator and minister, and his 81-year-old mother has worked as a secretary in schools.

Students once called his mother the n-word, Barber said; now their children and grandchildren call her Mother Barber.

He took his parents' lessons about equality to heart, becoming the first black student elected alone as student body president of Plymouth High school; previously, a white student and a black student had shared the position. He understood the value of education and got a doctoral degree.

He can speak thoughtfully and quietly, quoting the Bible, the Constitution and poets, or he can jump and shout, and he often does during speeches.

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## Gov. McCrory signs bill protecting Confederate Monuments

By John Moritz

RALEIGH (AP) - Under pressure to take action from groups on both sides of the Confederate symbols debate, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory responded July 23 by signing a much-debated monuments bill that critics said would protect Confederate memorials.

In a release sent by the governor's office, McCrory said he had issues with the bill for removing federal control over monuments deemed to commemorate "an event, person or military service that is part of North Carolina's history." It would be an act of the General Assembly to remove a monument.

But ultimately McCrory, a former mayor of Charlotte, said the bill's "goals" were worthy of his signature. Democrats wanted local officials and the North Carolina Historical Commission to have authority over such monuments. House Democrats launched a long floor debate in protest of the bill earlier in the week, at times eliciting frustrated responses from Republicans who supported memorials honoring Confederate veterans.

Also on July 23, advocacy groups delivered a petition with more than 13,000 signatures to the governor's offices in the old Capitol building, urging McCrory to use his executive authority to halt the sale of specialty license plates bearing the image of the Confederate flag.

McCrory responded with another release, repeating his past statements that he wants to stop issuing the plates, which have been sold to more than 2,000 supporters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. But he says he thinks the law requires him to wait for General Assembly approval. At the same time, legislative leaders say it is the governor's decision.

"He needs to show a little leadership. Certainly legal ambiguity is not something that's prevented him from taking legal action before," said Kevin Rogers, a spokesman for Action N.C., one of the sponsors of the petition.

The North Carolina NAACP had scheduled a press conference on July 24 at their offices in Durham urging McCrory to veto the monuments bill and end the sale of the Confederate license plates. It was not immediately clear how McCrory's signature would affect their plans.



GRAPHIC - N.C. POLICY WATCH

## GOP official juxtaposes images of KKK, Hillary Clinton

RALEIGH (AP) - The chairman of the North Carolina Republican party has posted Twitter photos juxtaposing images of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and the Ku Klux Klan.

Hasan Harnett posted the images on the social media site Thursday. One shows Klansmen surrounding a burning cross; the caption says the KKK was created as the militant wing of the Democratic Party. The second photo shows Clinton winking.

WRAL-TV in Raleigh says Harnett declined to comment July 27. North Carolina GOP Executive Director Todd Poole told the station Harnett wouldn't give interviews. But Poole says that as the organization's first black chairman, Harnett believes it's important to learn from history.

Clinton's campaign didn't respond to the station's request for comment.

North Carolina Democratic Party spokesman Ford Porter says the comments encapsulate the GOP's inflammatory rhetoric.



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