



**Roundtable at NCCU Features Five Former Ambassadors** - A panel of five international relations experts, all with former experience serving as U.S. Ambassadors overseas, will come together at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) for a roundtable discussion of issues and opportunities in American diplomacy and international relations.

The roundtable took place in the Albert L. Turner School of Law Building on Monday, Feb. 29.

The panel included: Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta and congressman from Georgia's 5th district who served as United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 1977 to 1979; Brenda Schoonover, a retired career Foreign Service

officer who was the U.S. Ambassador to Togo from 1997 to 2000; W. Robert Pearson, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from 2000 to 2003 and was previously executive secretary at the Department of State; Gwen C. Clare, a 30-year career diplomat who served as Ambassador to Ecuador from 1991 to 1994; and Michael Cotter, a former Foreign Service Officer and U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan from 1995 to 1998 who now publishes American Diplomacy, an online journal based in Chapel Hill.

The discussion was moderated by Attorney Kimberly Cogdell, professor in NCCU's School of Law. (NCCU photo by Chioke Brown)

## NCCU To Host NASA Road Tour, March 22-24

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) has been selected by NASA to participate in the Technology Infusion Road Tour, an initiative that links historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions to education and business opportunities at the national space agency.

During stops on the Road Tour, workshops and informational sessions will provide overviews of NASA initiatives designed to engage historically black and minority-serving institutions, including the Mentor-Protégé, Small Business Innovative Research, and Small Business Technical Transfer programs. The agency's Office of Education will also introduce a number of grant and cooperative agreement opportunities that are available.

Initial host sites for the tour national include NCCU, the University of Texas-El Paso, Morgan State University and Florida A&M University.

"NCCU is honored to host the NASA HBCU/MSI Technology Infusion Road Tour," said Dr. Undi Hoffler, interim vice chancellor for Research and Economic Development. "Participating in programs of this nature further enhances NCCU's capabilities to address national priorities in scientific research and technology."

NASA officials said they hope the Technology Infusion Road Tour will enable the agency and its prime contractors to increase the number of minority-owned businesses and research institutions carrying out the agency's work. The Road Tour will provide HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions with an introduction to NASA and its large prime contractors and opportunities to pursue non-grant funding.

NCCU departments participating include the Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI); the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE), the Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab); the NASA Center for Aerospace Research and Education; and the National Science Foundation's Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) in Fundamental and Applied Science and Education.

Minority-owned small business in the area will also be invited to participate in portions of the program, Hoffler said. The 100-plus anticipated attendees will learn fundamentals of the NASA's programs and ways to pursue procurement and technical opportunities through the agency. Guest speakers will include past and present participants in Mentor-Protégé, Small Business Innovative Research and other NASA programs, who will discuss their experiences.

To register for the free event, visit <http://www.osbp.nasa.gov/>.

### Acting Secretary John B. King Jr. to Visits Alabama A&M University

Acting U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. visited Alabama A&M University on Wednesday, March 16, in Huntsville, Alabama, as part of his "College Opportunity Across America" tour. King will participate in a town hall discussion on the impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in meeting the nation's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) needs.

King was joined by several Alabama A&M campus leaders as well as Todd May, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center. Alabama A&M students regularly intern at the Marshall Center and participate in several experiential (or co-curricular) learning programs. In honor of Women's History Month and women's accomplishments in STEM fields, Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson who is a Program Integration Engineer in the Planetary Missions Program Office at Marshall Space Flight Center will be a guest at the event. She received the first master's degree awarded by Alabama A&M's physics program in 1994 and later became the first African American woman in Alabama—and one of only about 20 nationwide—to earn a doctorate in physics.

King and Under Secretary Ted Mitchell launched the "College Opportunity Across America" tour to meet with students, professors and college leaders in three states and Washington, D.C. King's first event is on Wednesday in Atlanta, and the tour will continue with visits to Huntsville, Alabama; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C.

Throughout the tour, King will hear from students and campus leaders about innovative strategies that increase access, affordability and positive outcomes for all students – no matter their zip code. He will emphasize the Department's continued focus on the most important outcome: completing a quality degree at a reasonable cost. Mitchell will also make stops as part of the tour and join King at some of his events.

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