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VOLUME 96 - NUMBER 26

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017

PRICE: 50 CENTS TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

Johnson O. Akinleye Elected 12th Chancellor of North Carolina Central U.

Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., who has served as interim chancellor of North Carolina Central University since January 2017, has been elected to the position on a permanent basis by the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina.

UNC System President Margaret Spellings formally nominated Akinleye during a special meeting of the board in Chapel Hill.

"Dr. Akinleye is a strategic thinker and no-nonsense leader," said President Spellings. "His distinguished career includes extensive experience in senior administrative leadership roles at public, private and church-affiliated institutions. He sees building a relationship with the campus and community leaders as a priority and he understands the need to maximize the full value of being in the Research Triangle. I've had the benefit of watching Dr. Akinleye lead on an interim basis during a challenging period at N.C. Central, I'm confident that he will build on the proud traditions and storied history of the institution while continuing the legacy of great leaders before him - most notably the late Dr. Debra Saunders-White."

At NCCU, Dr. Akinleye worked to expand the university's academic partnerships, including new agreements with community colleges, as well as introduced to the campus a robust online, distanceeducation program, NCCU Online. He also created K-12 initiatives and implemented a security strategy to increase safety for campus constituents. Before his appointment as interim chancellor, he was named acting chancellor from August 2016 to January 2017. Prior to that role, Akinleye was named acting chancellor NCCU's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, where his responsibilities included faculty development, academic planning and assessment, enrollment management, and academic oversight of NCCU's seven schools and colleges.

"I accept the awesome responsibility as the 12th Chancellor for North Carolina Central University with humility," said Chancellor Akinleye. "I look forward to leading NCCU in a manner that honors our mission and to working closely with UNC General Administration to fulfill the university's system-wide mission and goals that

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Young scientists explore science, technology and math (STEM) during the ExxonMobile Bernard Harris Summer Camp. See story on page 14). NCCU Photo

Trump administration opposing bid for syphilis study museum

By Jay Reeves

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The Trump administration opposes a bid to use unclaimed money from a legal settlement over the government's infamous Tuskegee syphilis study to fund a museum honoring victims of the research project. The Justice Department argued in court documents recently that providing the money to the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center would violate an agreement reached in 1975 to settle a class-action lawsuit. For the study, hundreds of black men suffering from the sexually transmitted disease were allowed to go untreated for decades so doctors could analyze the progression of the illness.

The government said that it "does not intend in any way to justify, condone, or defend the Tuskegee Syphilis Study," but allowing remaining money from a \$9 million settlement to be used for the museum would violate the settlement's original provision that any left over money go back to the government.

Fred Gray, a civil rights attorney who represented men in the study and made the funding request in 2016, declined

comment on the government's position. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson held a telephone conference on the request on May 30, records show, but hasn't

ruled yet. Starting in 1932 and continuing for four decades, government medical workers operating in rural, segregated Alabama withheld treatment from unsuspecting black men infected with syphilis so doctors could track the disease and dissect their bodies afterward.

Revealed by The Associated Press in 1972, the study ended and the men sued, resulting in the settlement negotiated by Gray on behalf of the victims, all of whom have died.

The men wanted to be remembered in a memorial that told their story, Gray said in court documents, and a countyowned history museum that already includes exhibits about the study could use the "relatively small" amount of unclaimed money. The men's names are emblazoned in a circle on the floor of the museum, which only opens during the summer because of funding shortages.

The Justice Department said sending the money to the museum would "fundamentally alter the terms of the agreement."

Days after the government made its argument in legal documents, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memo barring third-party organizations from receiving money from settlements involving the government.

Officials say more than 6,000 heirs of the roughly 600 men who were involved in the study received settlement payments through the decades, but an undisclosed amount of mainly interest earnings remains in court-controlled ac-

counts. Court officials say they can't find additional descendants, if any exist. Some descendants of the men have said they support using the settlement money to help the museum, while others

like the idea of a new memorial at Tuskegee University, where the study was based. Still others want new medical screenings on relatives.



JOHNSON O. AKINLEYE, PH.D.

Report: Losses mount at historic Florida black university

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - A historically black university in Florida is dealing with mounting financial

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported June 25 a review of tax documents showed annual losses at Bethune-Cookman University have climbed over a three-year period from \$254,000 to \$17.8 million.

The paper said that tax returns show that salaries are increasing and that the college borrowed money from its endowment fund.

President Edison Jackson did not respond to questions about university finances. Joe Petrock, chairman of the school's board of trustees, said it is not the college's policy to discuss fiscal affairs in public. He added that trustees are working to "address and improve our financial mat-

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos gave a commencement speech at the university in May and had her speech nearly drowned out by boos and shouts.

Alabama mayor wants Confederate statues that New Orleans removed

HANCEVILLE, Ala. (AP) - An Alabama mayor is offering to take Confederate-related monuments recently disassembled in New

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail wrote to New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, asking him to consider donating the monuments for display in Veterans Memorial Park in Hanceville. The town of about 3,250 people is about 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Birmingham.

Nail tells The Cullman Times he's heard nothing but positive feedback on the idea from Hanceville residents.

Landrieu's office didn't immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. New Orleans officials have said they will issue a formal request for proposals to host the monuments in "a more appropriate place" than the high-profile spots they once occupied.

Landrieu proposed their removal after the 2015 slayings of nine black parishioners in South Carolina.

Minister who oversaw Lutheran integration in 3 states dies

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A minister who oversaw the integration of Lutheran churches in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama has died at the age of 92.

Schoen's (SHANE'S) Funeral Home says the Rev. Edgar Homrighausen (HOM-rig-how-zen) was born on Long Island in 1924, grew up in New Jersey, and died June 23.

He was elected bishop of the Missouri Synod's Southern District in 1959. During his 10 years as bishop, black Lutheran churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana were integrated into the formerly all-white Southern

Homrighausen moved in 1959 from First English Lutheran Church in New Orleans to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cullman, Alabama. He moved back to First English in 1965, retiring as bishop in 1969, but kept