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NCCU 2018 CHEATHAM-WHITE SCHOLARS

NCCU to Host Annual Eagle Scholars Day

By Wallecia Eley

NCCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions

North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) will welcome high school students from cities across the United States for Eagle Scholars Day on Saturday, Feb. 9, at 8 a.m., in the School of Law.

The Eagle Scholars Day program provides high school seniors an opportunity to learn more about NCCU.

"Eagle Scholars Day is an outstanding event to celebrate the academic achievements of some of the best and brightest students across the nation," said Monica Leach, Ed.D., senior associate vice chancellor for Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs. "North Carolina Central University is a premiere institution, where students have opportunities to solve real-world problems, excel in the community and make an impact on the people they serve. Once these scholars experience the breadth of what NCCU has to offer, we know that they will be ready to soar with us as part of the Class of 2023."

On Feb. 9, the university also will be conducting final interviews for the second cohort of Cheatham-White Scholars. The merit-based scholarship program was created by the North Carolina General Assembly for incoming freshmen in 2017 and provides up to 50 scholarships at NCCU. Awards will cover tuition, room and board, student fees, books, a laptop computer, supplies and personal expenses, plus four summer experiences that may include international studies.

Throughout the 2018 academic year, the first cohort of Cheatham-White Scholars have been highly active in a variety of campus organizations, initiatives and service projects, ranging from honor societies to scientific research. Scholars also raised money, collected supplies, and purchased clothes and toys for charter school students in Jacksonville, North Carolina who were directly impacted by Hurricane Florence.

"The Cheatham-White Scholarship Program is an extraordinary opportunity for North Carolina Central University to provide an exceptional educational experience to high-achieving scholars," said Christina Garrett, associate director of University Scholars at NCCU. "Selected students participate in an array of purposeful academic and co-curricular activities that continue building on the top-notch education legacy created by U.S. Congressmen Henry P. Cheatham and George Henry White."

Prospective students attending Eagle Scholars Day will meet with university representatives to discuss academic programs, experience sample faculty lectures, and hear details about student support services and campus activities. Participants will also learn more about freshmen admission qualifications, student life activities, financial aid, scholarships and NCCU's on-campus housing options. Campus and residence hall tours also will be provided.

For more information about Eagle Scholars Day, contact Ms. Christina Garrett, associate director of University Scholars, at 919-530-6520 or scholars@nccu.edu.

Black 14 players to return to UW for Black History Month

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) - Seven members of the Black 14 will return to the University of Wyoming campus this week to take part in the school's celebration of Black History Month.

Fourteen members of Wyoming's 1969 football team were dismissed for wanting to wear black armbands in the Cowboys' game against BYU that season to protest of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' former policy barring black men from the priesthood.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports that as Wyoming holds events in honor of Black History Month, Black 14 members will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the school's African American and Diaspora Studies Program.

UW Chief Diversity Officer Emily Monago says it will be the largest known gathering of the Black 14 members back on campus.

Country singer Charley Pride focus of two PBS projects

By Beth Harris

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - Paging Terrence Howard. Charley Pride still wants the actor to play him in a movie of the country music star's life.

The project has been discussed for about 10 years. Pride told a TV critics' meeting on Feb. 1 that it remains a goal to have it made with Howard, who stars in the Fox music series "Empire."

Meanwhile, Pride finds himself in the spotlight with two upcoming PBS projects: "Country Music," Ken Burns' film on the genre's evolution and the people who created it, and "Charley Pride: I'm Just Me," airing as part of the American Masters series on Feb. 22.

The 84-year-old Grand Ole Opry member shrugs off any suggestion of legend status as one of the few African Americans to find success in country music. His 1971 crossover hit "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'" earned him Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year honors.

"People say, 'Well, you're a legend,'" he said. "I think, well, you're already dead and gone up there."

Pride initially wanted to make the major leagues and break records.

He used to pick up extra cash by singing before Negro League games. Pride got as far as tryouts with the then-California Angels and New York Mets, but never made the majors like his idol Jackie Robinson.

Eventually, the son of Mississippi sharecroppers began working toward a performing career, already having taught himself to play a \$14 guitar ordered from the Sears catalog by his mother.

"I have no answer to what I've been able to achieve," Pride said.

NAACP President Derrick Johnson And Political Strategist Donna Brazile Issue 'State of Black America' Address

By Lauren Poteat, NNPA
Washington Correspondent

Following the aftermath of President Donald Trump's State of the Union address, NAACP President Derrick Johnson and Political Strategist Donna Brazile took part in a special "State of Black America" forum in search of the answer to, "Where do we go from here?"

Held at the Howard University Interdisciplinary Building, Johnson utilized the event as an opportunity to give his rebuttal to what some deemed a "contentious presidential address" and issued a call to action.

"It's unfortunate that [Trump's State of the Union speech] was a distraction from Stacey Abrahams' 'State of the Union,' that served as a reality for African Americans who weren't accepting the fact that the current president has been one of the best galvanizing forces to turn out the Black vote," Johnson said.

Recalling the 2008 presidential elections and the nostalgia that it left behind, Johnson went on to reference the wakeup call that all Americans were handed — post President Barack Obama — during the Trump era.

"If you remember in 2008, we celebrated what we thought was impossible," Johnson continued. "Commentators then began to talk about a post-racial society, and here we are some 11 years later, recognizing that the occupant of the White House gives us a daily reminder of why we as a people must stick together and stay together."

"What the president has done has opened up the eyes of so many people," Johnson continued. "This nation has still not dealt with race and its appeal to the lowest common denominator of us as a community. We really need to take a step back and focus on what's important, particularly in this era."

Moderating the discussion, Donna Brazile gave reference to Trump's statement that we as a nation "could choose greatness" but in doing so, would also need to choose his ideals and values.

Following this statement, Brazile posed the question to Johnson, "How would you, choose greatness for America in the 21st century?"

"Greatness in this county is when we ensure that we take care of our elderly people," Johnson said. "That we prepare our young people so that they can have a brighter future. That we protect the rights of the disadvantaged, however we place the label. That is what makes a healthy society. That is what makes us great."

"We need to strengthen free public education, so that in the global economy, our children won't get left behind. We need to examine the issue of healthcare and how many individuals are using a substantial amount of their income on healthcare, and we need to be a nation that is of one nation and not allow for individuals to divide us."

Closing out the session, focused on the NAACP, Donna Brazile proudly posed the timely question: "What role do women still play within the NAACP organization?"

"Women have a huge role," Johnson said. "Women, just like the church, make up the backbone of the organization. We've had six Black female presidents before consolidating titles and roles, so perhaps it's time now [that] we have a first female President and CEO."

In support of the "State of Black America" discussion, Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick also gave remarks during the meeting.

"This is a very interesting time in our nation's history," HU's Johnson said. "And the event tonight, continuing Black History Month 'Where Do We Go from Here,' is a very appropriate topic."

"I recently did an interview for CNN," he continued, "and one of the things that I pointed out to them was that I don't believe there is a monolithic 'Black Vote.' 'If these people came on my campus and polled all of the students on a variety of topics, they would get a variety of opinions... That is an example of why discussions such as these are so important. We need a clear idea as to where we are and where we should be going.'"



NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson joins political strategist Donna Brazile, for "Where Do We Go from Here," a discussion on the state and future of race in America held at the Howard University Interdisciplinary Building. (Photo: Courtesy Photo)