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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

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## Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, Rev. Dr. Barber Address NCCU Graduates

**NCCU Media Relations**  
North Carolina Central University (NCCU) will welcome N.C. Chief Justice Cheri Beasley and the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, '85, for the 133rd Commencement exercises on Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11.  
The Graduate and Professional Commencement Ceremony will feature a keynote from Beasley on May 10, at 3 p.m., in the McDougald-McLendon Arena. During the ceremony, Beasley will be awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters for her community contributions and achievements in the political field.



N.C. CHIEF JUSTICE CHERI BEASLEY

Barber will address the NCCU undergraduates on May 11, at 8 a.m., in O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium.  
Beasley is the first African American woman to be elected in any statewide race without first being appointed to the office. She also is the first African American woman to serve as chief justice of the state's highest court, after being appointed by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper in March 2019. Additionally, Beasley is the fourth African American woman to serve as chief justice in the U.S.



REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER II

Beasley began her career as a district court judge in Cumberland County, N.C., and after 10 years, she went on to serve as an associate judge on the N.C. Court of Appeals. She is the eighth woman and the second African American woman to serve on the court.  
She graduated from the Douglass College of Rutgers University and attended The University of Tennessee College of Law. She then went on to earn her Master of Laws in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law.  
Barber serves the community in many capacities, as the pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, N.C., a social justice advocate and founder of Repairers of the Breach, a leadership development organization.  
In 2017, Barber and colleagues launched a revival of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign that was spearheaded by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others. In 2018, the Poor People's Campaign launched 40 days of moral, nonviolent civil disobedience in 40 states and Washington, D.C. The campaign resulted in over 5,000 acts of simultaneous civil disobedience in 36 state capitols and the U.S. Capitol.  
Additionally, Barber is an author, contributing op-ed writer for national publications, and a distinguished visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. He also serves in leadership roles at many institutions of higher education. He formerly served as president of the N.C. chapter of the NAACP and currently serves as a member of the organization's national board.  
For more information on NCCU's 133rd Commencement exercises, visit: <http://web.nccu.edu/commencement/>.



**NCCU Unveils New State-of-the-Art Television Studio** - Pictured L to R : Carlton Wilson, Ph.D., NCCU College of Arts and Sciences Dean; Felecia Casey-Hicks, TV Studio Manager; NCCU Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D.; Calvin Hall, Ph.D., NCCU Department of Mass Communication Chair; and George R. Hamilton, NCCU Board of Trustees Chairman. (NCCU Photo)

## NCCU Unveils New State-of-the-Art Television Studio

**NCCU Media Relations**  
North Carolina Central University (NCCU) unveiled its new state-of-the-art television studio to the campus and wider community on April 23, 2019. With \$1.86 million in Title III funding, the new television studio will further enhance the training of NCCU students in the growing mass communications industry. The high-tech, high-touch facility is housed on the first floor of the Farrison-Newton Communications Building on campus.

### Video: Officer who fatally shot man said she had no choice

By Tom Foreman Jr.  
CHARLOTTE (AP) - A North Carolina police officer who fatally shot a black man in a parking lot after repeatedly ordering him to drop his gun said multiple times that she had no choice, according to a bodycam video released April 24.  
An 11-minute bodycam video was released by Charlotte-Mecklenburg police after local media outlets went to a judge on April 23 to get the police department to release the entire recording of the encounter. A 3-minute version of the shooting was released on April 15.  
Both versions show the shooting of 27-year-old Danquirs Napoleon Franklin outside a Burger King on March 25. At about the 2-minute mark of the extended video, Officer Wende Kerl shoots Franklin, who was crouched next to the car on the passenger side. Right before Kerl fires, Franklin can be seen raising his right hand with an object in it, still facing the person in the passenger seat.  
Civil rights activists in North Carolina have urged nonviolent response in the aftermath of Franklin's death, pointing out that Franklin never aimed his weapon at authorities.  
"Deep anger, hurt and, quite frankly, mistrust," Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP president Corine Mack told WBTV. "There was no threat to her life."  
The extended video shows the aftermath of the shooting. Someone can be heard moaning, presumably Franklin. Kerl said she had to pick up the gun, and a man inside the car said, "This is crazy, man."  
"He pulled a gun," Kerl said. An officer off camera responded, "Yes, he did. I know, Wende." An officer asks if Kerl is OK and she responds that she is.  
About 6 minutes into the video, emergency workers arrived to treat Franklin. None of the officers appeared to give aid to Franklin. The Charlotte Observer reported that City Councilman Braxton Winston complained that officers didn't provide aid right away. In a television interview, CMPD Chief Kerr Putney said officers could have given aid more quickly.  
Just over 6 minutes into the video, another officer tells Kerl to go sit inside her patrol car. "I didn't have a choice," she said, to which the officer replies, "You're alright, you're alright."  
At this point, the video shows Kerl's perspective from behind the steering wheel of her patrol cruiser. She states again that she had no choice but to shoot Franklin.  
"I had to. He wouldn't drop the gun and he brought it out of his jacket," she said. An officer out of view tries to comfort her.  
"It's alright. You're alright. Look here. You're sitting here talking, right? Got kids at home, right? You're gonna see them this evening, right? That's all that matters," the officer said.  
Kerl asks an officer close by if Franklin is alive, and the officer says he doesn't know. Then, Kerl yells to a second officer and repeats the question.  
"No, no," the second officer responds. Kerl then tries to call her husband but gets no answer. Another officer then asks Kerl if she is OK and she again repeats her account of the shooting.  
"He had a gun. He wouldn't drop it," she said. "And then he reached in his thing, pulled the gun out. We didn't know. We thought it was in the hand and I shot him."  
A sergeant then arrives at her car and she tells him she shot Franklin. The sergeant tells Kerl to turn off her video and the recording ends.  
Kerl is on administrative assignment, a non-patrol function, said CMPD spokesman Bradford Koch.  
On April 24, CMPD said the department's homicide unit turned over all of the evidence to the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's office for their review.

training of NCCU students in the growing mass communications industry. The high-tech, high-touch facility is housed on the first floor of the Farrison-Newton Communications Building on campus.  
"NCCU's new television studio signals a shift in the way we will prepare our students who seek to become trained, job-ready, award-winning journalists," said NCCU Chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D. "This studio reflects a significant investment in intensive and extensive training through our mass communication program that now provides our students with enhanced practical instruction in a world-class, high intensity, hands-on learning environment."  
The new television studio will provide extensive learning experiences in audio and visual technology, camera operation, lighting, directing and on-camera presenting.  
NCCU's award-winning Department of Mass Communication has more than 250 students enrolled. The department soared past other colleges and universities at the Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI) competition in Savannah, Ga. bringing home six awards. The student newspaper, The Campus Echo, was recognized during the 2019 North Carolina College Media Association Conference.  
"This facility reflects the university's commitment to the idea that our students - and those to train and teach them - deserve to have access to the best equipment and facilities," said Calvin L. Hall, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Mass Communication.  
In addition to the television studio and campus newspaper, the Department of Mass Communication also provides students with hands-on training through radio production. WNCU 907. FM radio station broadcasts jazz music and public programming while student radio stream AudioNet provides real-time programming with R&B and hip-hop music, news and sports of local and national interest.

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