Cone to leave Winston-Salem State

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Winston-Salem State University announced last week in a statement that Clementine Cone will leave her post as the school's vice chancellor for finance and administration.

Her last day will be Sept. 30.

The announcement came after a series of controversies involving Cone. Last July some faculty members raised questions about Cone's role in a \$6.5 million deficit at Norfolk State University, the school where she served as the chief financial officer before coming to WSSU.

Cone said she took no responsibility for NSU's problems in an interview with The Chronicle in April.

"I've never considered anything

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calling Northeast #2 and #3, bounded by Liberty Street, Bowen Boulevard and 18th and 25th streets

The effort to revitalize the areas has been in the works since 1987. but a failed bond referendum forced city officials to work on the plan as money allowed, said Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Burke. The bond package earmarked almost \$9 million for the neighborhoods, officials said.

"Of course, if the bond had passed, we wouldn't be doing what we're doing now," she said, "But I'm glad we found money to do some rehabbing and relocation in the proper way in the Cleveland Avenue area.'

Burke said she remembered another image of the neighborhoods, one not tainted by the urban blight that has in recent years forced many longtime residents to move out.

"When I first moved here these were beautiful neighborhoods,' she said. "People were proud to live there. It's been sad to watch it decline

Dilapidated housing will be torn down; the areas' roads, sidewalks and sewer systems will be upgraded, and several apartment complexes will be renovated.

One hundred and fifty-three affordably-priced, single-family homes will also be built in the area. The total cost of the project

will top \$30 million, officials said.

"I think it's going to upgrade

Winston-Salem State to be ques-tionable at all," she said. "I don't feel I can be held responsible for anything in terms of their (Norfolk State's) financial situation." Last November, Thurmond

Williams, the first director of the university's community development corporation, which also falls under Cone's control, was fired after a conflict about how the university wanted to manage grant money.

Earlier this year, members of the school's board of trustees ques-, tioned Cone for moving a quartermillion dollars from the school's endowment fund to another school account

And in May, Cone was stripped of her financial responsibilities

the area tremendously," said Alderman Nelson Malloy, who represents a significant portion of the areas to be revitalized. "What was there was slum housing, a blighted area that had drug activity, people engaging in the illegal sale of alcohol. There was prostitution in the

"People were being assaulted. We had several murders in the area. When we clean out the dilapidated housing and put in new homes, we feel people will have a better ownership of the area in terms of being homeowners and permanent residents."

For years, residents have complained about absentee landlords and crime in the areas, Malloy said. Drug dealers openly sold their products, and the communities' elderly residents were fearful.

The opportunity to own homes and the visual improvements the city will make will return the neighborhoods' luster, Malloy said.

"Lincoln-Maywood and Old Cherry were blighted areas in our community with dilapidated slum housing that gave rise to crime and drug activity - a lot of negative things we didn't need in our community," he said. "We (are) going to be able to get rid of that slum housing and provide an opportunity to live in single-family homes."

Already, area residents and businesses have begun to be relocate to other areas through the city's relocation program, which was begun almost four years ago. "They've been relocated to houses and apartments that are much better than the ones they

I have done at Norfolk State or after Chancellor Alvin Schexnider asked UNC President Molly Broad for help in getting the university's financial house in order. Broad sent Philip Gilley, an audit supervisor from the Office of State Audit, to handle the school's finances for at least the next 12 months.

Schexnider praised Cone for her work at the university. He credited her with negotiating a campusexclusive beverage contract for WSSU, for establishing the Ram-Card campus debit system and for saving the university hundreds of thousands of dollars through a revenue bond refinancing package.

"Vice Chancellor Cone worked diligently to ensure progress at Winston-Salem State, and we accomplished several of our shortterm goals due to her efforts." Schexnider said.

lived in before," Malloy said. "The people have been taken care of in terms of new housing."

Burke said to ensure that the neighborhood's facelift is permanent city officials will work hard to enforce housing codes. She also said the a strong police presence will ensure residents feel safe.

Where we're falling short is with our public safety," she said. We're letting people gather, and that will cause problems."

Burke said residents have to develop neighborhood organizations and police also have to have strong presence in the areas. Burke said officers need to patrol constantly to make sure troublemakers don't get a toehold in the newly revamped communities.

'If, as people say to me, (police) saw us loitering in another area. they'd hurry up and find a way to move us from there," she said. They need to do that here."

The loan package also includes \$1 million that will be used to help finance 10 new eateries in the Restaurant Row project. Officials hope the project will expand activ-. ity downtown by adding restaurants and tourist attractions.

"That \$1 million will be helpful in getting Restaurant Row off the ground," Malloy said. "This is a major part of the puzzle to revitalize downtown."

Malloy said both projects could give a much-needed boost to what for years has been a sagging center city.

"It does a lot for people in my area," Malloy said. "It gives them new homes, and a sense of ownership. It keeps the neighborhood moving in a positive manner.'

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Women."

She concluded, "The black female adolescent is almost a 'missing person' on the American stage." This presentation focused on the changing image of the black female adolescent in plays by African American women.

Fatime R. Dike, founding member of International Women's Playwrights Association, developed a paper on the topic "Women in South Africa's Black Theatre." This paper took a critical look at the portrayal of African women in black theater in South Africa by examining five of her own plays contrasted with works by black male writers such as Zakes Mda, Makwedini Mtsaka and Maishe Maponya.

Playwright Kwame Dawes is an associate professor in English and coordinator of Minority Visiting Writers Series at the University of South Carolina at

Columbia. Dawes dealt with the topic "Reconciliation and Forgiveness in Trevor Rhone's Old Story Time. Jose' Ligiero Coelho

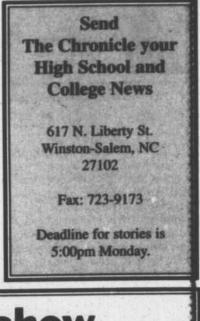
Brazilian artist, director and scholar - specializes in Afro-Brazilian culture. Founder of the graduate theater department of the University of Rio de Janeiro, Coelho focused on the topic "Baiana, the Carnivalization of Black Female Figure." The presentation discussed the strong presence of the "Baiana," a black female community leader and candomblé priestess, in Brazilian theater, film and soap opera through the process of carnivalization of her figure.

Elwanda Ingram, professor of English and African American literature, chaired Symposium III on Aug. 5. Three presenters served on the panel: Tess O. Onwueme, Femi Euba and Renee Charlow.

Onwueme of Nigeria currently holds the Distinguished Professorship of Cultural Diversity at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, where she is also

professor of English. She presented on the topic "Drumbeat in Black Women's Drama." Dun ing her presentation, she exam ined the chorus and resonand of drumbeats in black women drama, invoking them through reading and analysis.

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company and Winston-Salem State University sponsored the colloquium.



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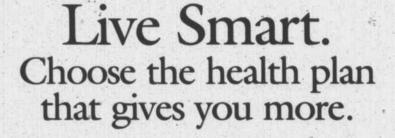
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