

'SISTER GOVERNOR'?

Bev Perdue may make history again in North Carolina

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

Like Loretta Lynn, Beverly Perdue is proud to be a coal miner's daughter.

She often recalls her hum-ble roots. Growing up poor, she said, taught her that life's rewards come not from fancy cars and job titles, but by giving and helping others.

"I believe that if you are good to people and work hard, life will be good for you," she said

Perdue has followed her own philosophy and reaped the results. The people of Craven County sent the former schoolteacher to the N.C. House of Representatives in She would spend two 1987. terms there before winning a seat in the state Senate. Perdue had spent 10 years in the Senate in 2000 when she decided to try to make history by becoming the state's first female lieutenant governor.

Her common-sense ideas and folksy way of expressing them endeared her to state residents. She won a tight race over a fellow state senator, Republican Betsy Cochran, to become lieutenant governor. Perdue was re-elected in 2004.



mas Jenkins, the vice president of the Winston-Salem State University Student Government Association,"chats with Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue last week.

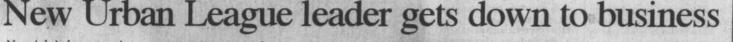
These days, talk centers around Perdue making history again, this time by moving into the Governor's Mansion in 2008. Perdue has not said

for certain that she will run. "It's early in the process." she said. Her supporters are less coy about talking about Perdue as the next governor.

"North Carolina is going to join the 21st century, and we are going to have a lady governor for North Carolina," State Rep. Larry Womble said

Winston-Salem State University last week as Perdue sat grinning a few feet away.

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New job is homecoming for Keith Grandberry BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

When Keith Grandberry became the new president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League, he wasn't just inheriting the reins of a community institution; he was coming hom

Grandberry was born in Newton, N.C. He went to school at UNC-Greensboro, where he got his bachelor's degree in organizational communication. Since then, he's worked in the state and in other parts of the country in crisis magement, public relations.



"awful lot" on business. He last lived in Washington, D.C., and was director of America's Families United, which promotes voting and voter education.

Grandberry has worked with many people who are consid-ered important, but he said one of the most important people in his life was his great-grandmother, who taught him to always be humble, stay grounded and remember his purpo

"We're all put on Earth for a certain purpose, and I believe mine is to work with people," Grandberry said last Friday from the agency's downtown headquarters.

Grandberry was familiar with the Urban League because, for the last three years, he had been involved in the training of

A& to fill large shoes

James Renick made many strides at university

BY SANDRA ISLEY THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Hearts are heavy on the campus of N.C. A&T State University this Last Friday, James hac! Renick, the week. Carmichae! Renick, the school's beloved chancellor, announced that he will step down June 1 to accept a position with the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C

Renick has been the school's

leader for the last

seven

ear Over that time, A&T's campus h a s exploded and its reputa-

tion as one of the nation's foremost historically black colleges has been cemented.

School officials hope that whoever succeeds Renick will continue moving the school forward and fulfill a strategic vision for the campus of which Renick was the architect.

"Chancellor Rénick has provided us with exemplary leadership We're really, really pleased, and he will be missed," said Velma Speight-Buford, chairperson of A&T's board of trustees board of trustees.

Renick announced his decision in the school's administra tive building among members of his staff and other school officials. Under Renick's guidance, the university has seen record-breaking student enrollment. He helped to establish a middle college for at-risk male high school students in

and corporate and political consulting

He lived outside North Carolina for eight years, but he said he visited the state an

Keith Grandberry and D Wylie at a recent event at the Urban League.

new CEOs for the National Urban League: He was really

See Grandberry on A10

REMEMBERING HISTORY

Guilford County. In 2005, the school named its new School of Education Building in his

See Renfek on A14

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eaders push for black elections candidate

BY TODD LUCK THE CHRONICLE

The African American Caucus of County the Forsyth Democratic Party has joined Black Leadership the Roundtable in pushing for an African-American director of elections for Forsyth County

Harold Lee Hairston. president of the caucus, sent a mass c-mail to members and supporters of the caucus last week, asking them to write letters to the two Democrats on the three-person Forsyth "

County Board of Elections urging them to hire Clare Wallace as director.

The position became available late last month after Kathie Chastain Cooper retired after 30 years as director. Hairston said he is trusting the rec-

ommendation of State Rep. Larry Womble in pushing for Wallace, who formerly was the director of the Liberty Street Community Development Corp.

Wallace recently left the CDC, -Hairston is one of many African Americans who did not see eye to eye with Chastain Cooper.

Cooper failed to do everything in

her power to ensure maximum voter turnout. At a Board of Elections meet ing last year, Hairston accused Chastain Cooper and some of her staff of being rude to residents who visit elections adquarters.

Hairston also said he and members

of his caucus had problems with her resistance to additional early-voting sites in African-American communities and her support of touch-screen voting

machines, which Hairston said are too complicated and don't provide a paper trail. He also didn't feel the board was open enough and recep-

tive to their concerns. He believes Wallace would be much better in the position

"It's always been a ques-tion of integrity." Hairston said. "When you have someone with integrity, you believe the process is working."

Two weeks ago, Hairston sent out a statement from the caucus denouncing Laura Gerardi-Dell as the next director. Gerardi-Dell is the current deputy director and has received the endorsement of

de.

NAÄCP President Stephen Hairston presents an award to the widow of John F. Meredith Jr., one of the city's first black firefighters. The NAACP and the city hom red the eight men wh ade history in the early 1950s by becoming Winston-Salem's first black firefighters. To read

more about the men and Tuesday's ceremony, see Page B14. "Growing and Still Dedicated to Serve You Better" 822 Carl Rus (at Martin Luthe In Grateful Memory of Our Founders, Russell Funeral Home Vinston-Salem, (336) 722-Florrie S. Russell and Fax (336) 631 Wishes to Thank Everyone For Their Support Carl H. Russell, Sr. rusthome@bell



