

### Praise for the Rams



*Submitted Photo*  
 Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church Senior Pastor Sheldon McCarter and Co-Pastor Joyce McCarter (far right) present a \$1,000 check to Winston-Salem State Athletic Director Bill Hayes (far left), Associate Athletic Director Valerie Dinkens and Head Football Coach Connell Maynor (center). The donation, which was made at the church recently, is in support of the "1000 HORNS Campaign," which asks 1,000 alumni and friends of Winston-Salem State University to make an annual contribution of \$1,000. Join the cause by contacting Hayes at 336-750-2142 or hayeswl@wssu.edu.

### NCCU recognized for graduating at-risk students

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina Central University has been recognized nationally for "beating the odds" in helping students most prone to dropping out of college stay on track toward graduation. In a new national report published by HCM Strategists, a Washington, D.C., public policy advocacy firm, NCCU is profiled along with more than 30 post-secondary institutions for its efforts to improve college completion rates and prepare students for successful careers.

Approximately 2.2 million students will enroll as full-time freshmen in America's colleges and universities this fall, but less than 60 percent will earn a four-year degree within six years, and less than 30 percent will earn a two-year degree within three years. It is even worse for low-income and minority students, putting America further behind in meeting future workforce needs.

"Beating the Odds: What It Means and Why It's Important," developed with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is the result of a series of conversations with leaders from 32 post-secondary institutions about what colleges must do to help students. Each of the colleges and universities featured in the report is considered a national model for their approaches to boosting completion rates.

"The odds of a low-income American com-

pleting college haven't changed in at least 20 years," said Kristin Conklin, founding partner at HCM Strategists. "North Carolina Central University is demonstrating how to beat those odds, ensure student success and help our economy recover. Today, these campuses are the exception. "Beating the Odds" provides a blueprint for others to follow and help change the exception to the rule in post-secondary education."



The NCCU Division of Student Affairs staff is leveraging peer pressure and group dynamics to achieve student success. The Centennial Scholars program invites applications from incoming black male freshmen who are also Pell Grant eligible. They take field trips together, volunteer at NCCU's Habitat for Humanity house, serve as tutors at local elementary and middle schools, and coach at the Boys and Girls Club. Furthermore, they live together in the same residence hall.

In addition to the academic tutoring they receive at University College, these students are monitored and mentored for one hour per week, and staff members are available to them on the phone and through electronic means virtually around the clock. Seventy-four percent of the first two cohorts were retained from first to second year, and their average GPA for the year was a respectable 2.5.

S M T W T F S S

# Winston-Salem AIR SHOW



September 8-11