



homes or workplaces to user-friendly degree programs.

One example is the College of Arts & Sciences' flexible new bachelor's degree in liberal studies.

"That's going to help many of those students who've been several places and collected a lot

of hours that really don't amount to a major," Cole says. "They're able to self-design a piece that's tailored to what they want.

"It is so very attractive because they don't have to spend a lot of time taking a lot of courses they don't need."

Many students choose A&T, the area's largest historically black college or university, because they've heard about - or experienced first-hand - what it feels like to be part of the Aggie Family. The student population includes numerous employees taking advantage of the tuition waiver program.

"I hear this over and over, especially from those we call re-admits: They remember that A&T was a family and it's still a family. We have that caring, nurturing attitude. You can always find somebody to help you."

For most non-traditional Aggies, the decision boiled down to one simple - and central - factor.

"They know the quality of education they're getting is superb," she says. "These are people who have life-learning to their advantage. They read. They keep up, they know what's going on in academia, they know what's going on as far as trends in education, they know what's going on in the world of work."



Too many know all too well.

"A lot of them have been downsized," she says, "and they don't want that to happen to them again."

While being unemployed reduces many students'

income enough for them to qualify for financial aid, many others are merely underemployed, making too much to qualify but not enough - after meeting their living expenses - to pay for school.

Cole is keeping a good thought for a pending effort in the U.S. Senate to increase the availability of financing for such students through the Clinton-Graham Bill.

"That is very exciting to me," says Cole, who along with others at A&T is always looking for ways to offer an Aggie education to more and more students. "That has been a long, long time coming. It's well overdue."

For more information about A&T's Evening/Weekend Programs, call 334-7607.



Aggie Life™ North Carolina A&T State University

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