Group effort works for Charlotte

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And then there's the cultural impact the tournament will have on Charlotte residents.

"This certainly is one of those events that the people in Charlotte have never gotten to experience," said Cannon, who has attended the CIAA tournament off and on since high school.

"The CIAA will bring a diversity to

this city that it's never seen. What I get excited about is the idea of those people here who have never attended the CIAA tournament and what they are in for. It really is a beautiful, special event. There are things you see at the CIAA tournament that you never see anywhere else. I think Charlotteans really are going to be in for a surprise."

Then, Tapscott reflected on the Norfolk trip, that cool, November day.

"I think one of the great things about that is that Tim and Patrick and myself had developed a real solid friendship long before we had to make this trip," said Tapscott, who first attended the CIAA tournament as a teenager in 1969.

"So I think what came across to the

committee of presidents and chancellors and, of course, the commissioner of the CIAA was that there was a good working relationship here amongst the three critical parties that would make this event a reality."

"Needless to say, what (the CIAA was) looking for was the best venue,





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