

North Carolina Central Remains Strong

When he told the North Carolina Central University faculty of his intention to resign at the end of December, 1991, from his administrative post, Chancellor T.R. Richmond spoke of the pleasure he gets from teaching.

He also expressed his confidence that NCCU will continue to grow stronger over the next ten years.

The two comments are related. NCCU's strength comes from the quality and the dedication of faculty members like Dr. Richmond, who teach because it brings them joy.

NCCU's Undergraduate Research Program is an illustration of faculty dedication to teaching. The Undergraduate Research Program offers NCCU students an opportunity to work closely with one faculty member on significant research projects.

That opportunity depends on the faculty member's willingness to spend at least two hours a week working exclusively with the undergraduate research student. The faculty member must be involved in an ongoing research project with which the student will assist.

NCCU faculty members volunteered enthusiastically for the project. NCCU now has one of North Carolina's largest undergraduate research programs, and has taken a lead role in creating a statewide Consortium on Undergraduate Research.

Chancellor Richmond has said repeatedly over the past year that NCCU's academic programs are at their peak strength. Students are fully aware of that strength.

The College Board, which administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test, announced in the fall of 1990 that NCCU is among the top ten colleges and universities in America in terms of the number of black students who direct that their SAT scores be sent to the school. NCCU ranked ninth on the list provided by the College Board.

North Carolina Central University was founded in 1910 by Dr. James E. Shepard, a pharmacist and Baptist church leader, as the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua. Its role was envisioned as that of a training ground for leaders of the black church and for black leadership in general.

Subsequently, the state of North Carolina assumed responsibility for the institution. It was briefly a normal school for the training of teachers, and then became in 1925 the nation's first state-supported liberal arts college for black people. In 1939, the institution—then known as North Carolina College for Negroes—was authorized to establish graduate and professional programs. The graduate program in arts and sciences, the School of Law, and the School of Library and Information Sciences all trace their anniversaries to 1939.

The founder of the university, Dr. Shepard, remained its president until his death in 1947. By that time, his school had undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, a graduate school of arts and sciences, a school of library science, and a school of law. Education and business were included among the arts and sciences in those years.

Dr. Shepard led the school under four different names. Before his death in 1947, the racial identification had been dropped from the name, and the institution was North Carolina College at Durham. In 1960, North Carolina College was renamed North Carolina Central University. Since 1972 it has been one of 16 constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina system.

NCCU's graduates have included the first



HONOR GRADUATES—The college completion rate is improving for African-Americans attending colleges and universities like North Carolina Central University in Durham. These smiling honor graduates are beginning their journey to academic and professional heights. The proportion of blacks aged 25 and over who had a college degree rose from 10.7 percent in 1987 to 11.8 percent in 1989 and the climb continues.

black mayors of two state capitals, Atlanta and Raleigh. (Maynard Jackson, a graduate of the NCCU School of Law, was re-elected mayor of Atlanta in the fall of 1989.) NCCU alumni hold key chairmanships in the North Carolina General Assembly, and alumnus Daniel T. Blue, Jr., of Raleigh, is Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. An NCCU alumnus retired recently as a senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and alumni have been or are now presidents of banks, superintendents of school systems, senior scientists with major corporations and Federal agencies, and college and university presidents.

For a full year, an NCCU alumnus, Dr. Thomas Malone, was acting director of the National Institutes of Health, and an NCCU dean, Dr. John Ruffin, was named an Associate Director of the NIH in 1990.

NCCU law graduates hold judgeships at all levels, up to the Supreme Court of the state of Connecticut. They have been elected judges of the North Carolina Superior Courts and the N.C. Court of Appeals, by popular vote.

Dr. S. Dallas Simmons, an NCCU alumnus, is President of Virginia Union University, and the Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University is NCCU graduate Dr. Cleon Thompson.

As proud as NCCU is of alumni of national and statewide prominence, it is equally proud of thousands of graduates who are leading citizens of their local communities, outstanding school teachers, committed members of town, city, and county governing boards, business men and women, volunteers in community organizations, and hardworking professionals in the law, health careers, communications, and other fields.

NCCU has consistently ranked among the

leading institutions in the nation in the number of black baccalaureate recipients who subsequently earned their doctoral degrees. It also ranks high in the proportion of its athletes who receive their degrees. NCCU continues to build its students into scholars and leaders with programs in more than 50 academic disciplines and specialties.

The NCCU library collection is the second largest among those of America's historically black colleges and universities, and is the seventh largest in the state of North Carolina, ahead of 41 other senior colleges and universities.

NCCU today enrolls some 5,300 students in five degree-granting schools: the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Business, all three with undergraduate and graduate programs; the School of Library and Information Sciences, which offers the Master of Library Science and the Master of Information Sciences degrees; and the School of Law, which awards the Juris Doctor degree.

The School of Library and Information Sciences cooperates with the College of Arts and Sciences in offering a pre-Library Science program which allows the student to earn a bachelor's degree in a subject matter area and a Master of Library Science degree in five years.

Dr. Tyroneza R. Richmond, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, is its sixth chief administrator. Dr. Richmond's resignation as Chancellor will be effective in December, 1991, and he intends to return to teaching and research. He was promoted to the Chancellor's post from the post of dean of the NCCU School of Business. Dr. Richmond holds earned academic degrees from Fisk University, the American University in Washington, and Purdue University.

Bureau Notes College Rates Improve For Black Students

The percentage of the nation's adult black population who completed four or more years of college increased from 1987 to 1989, according to a report released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The proportion of blacks aged 25 and over who had a college degree rose from 10.7 percent in 1987 to 11.8 percent in 1989. The proportion who were high school graduates in 1989 was 64.6 percent, not statistically different from the proportion in 1987 but higher than the 1985 rate.

In 1989, whites had the highest level of high school completion, 78.4 percent. At the college level, 21.8 percent completed four or more years.

Among persons of Hispanic origin, who may be of any race, about 1 in 10 had completed 4 or more years of college in 1989 and about one-half had completed high school. The high school completion rate was not statistically different from the 1987 rate but was higher than the 1985 rate.

As in all surveys, the data in this report are subject to sampling variability and response errors.

Copies of the report Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1989 and 1988, Series P-20, No. 451 may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 (202-783-3238).

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