Dear Faculty and Staff:

Welcome to the 2011 University Conference!

There is a new reality, a new normal if you will, and we must either adapt and thrive or find ourselves assuming a much less significant role. A myopic perspective is holding sway in government. All public services have to justify their existence according to standards of performance, productivity and short-term return on investment. For institutions of higher education, being held accountable for rates of retention and graduation, time to degree completion, learning outcomes, post-graduate student debt, and the efficient deployment of personnel is reasonable.

NCCU welcomes the new emphasis on accountability. We have always worked to enhance the economic prospects of our students. We know we can offer better value. But to do so, we will have to make hard choices about programs and services that no longer serve student needs. Those savings cannot be fully realized without dramatically increasing internal communication and collaboration. There are unexplored opportunities for synergy that must be tapped to streamline service delivery and eliminate redundancy.

If we are to remain competitive and to graduate students with marketable competencies, we must embrace the new normal because it is showing every sign that it is here to stay.

Sincerely,

Charlie Nelms
Chancellor