



# PARTNERING TOGETHER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER OF NCCU

A PUBLICATION OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

## TRANSITIONING TO ENGAGEMENT: AN UPDATE ON “REPURPOSING” BY DEBORAH BAILEY



*Dr. Deborah Bailey, Director*

Shakespeare asked, “What’s in a name?” When it comes to the Academic Community Service Learning Program, the answer is “much.”

North Carolina Central University’s strategic plan calls for the “repurposing and expansion of the community engagement role” of the program. For the past year, faculty, staff, students, administrators and community partners have been putting their heads together to figure just how the current ACSLP office can reach this goal. It all begins with a name change.

ACSLP is undergoing a transformation to become the Office of Community

Engagement. The new name is shorter and more succinct, but the moniker is more than just window dressing. The name change heralds a change in how the office will operate, becoming more effective in serving the campus and our community partners.

Those yearlong conversations resulted in two clear objectives: The office must serve as the clearing house for engagement activities on campus; and we must develop processes to collect and analyze data on the activities.

A lot of the work that we do in the current ACSLP office moves us toward these goals. We maintain a database of more than 100 community organizations and work with faculty to send students into the community for one-time events, internships, practicums and service learning experiences. Moreover, ACSLP initiated our first annual Community Symposium for our community partners last fall, before the formal adoption of the strategic plan.

We have already begun meetings between community partners and faculty to identify common interests and new opportunities for outreach. In an effort to increase communication, a new Community Engagement website has come online with fresh and timely information and articles on engagement activities across the campus. And we

hope you enjoy this restyled digital newsletter as a way to share the stories posted on our website.

A formal commitment by NCCU to community engagement means that we will work more closely to support faculty, staff and students who are out there volunteering. We will be implementing procedures so that faculty and staff receive support to evaluate the good work that is being done in the community. We will also work to ensure that systems are in place to “count” your good work and to offer workshops and better collaboration.

Repurposing the ACSLP office is a strategic goal of the university, which means your feedback is critical and needed. A Community Engagement Task Force was formed earlier this year to guide the process of transition. Under the leadership of Dr. Janice Harper, the task force has made tremendous progress toward realizing the goal. We’re on our way, but there’s more work to do — and we need your help. We still want feedback from individuals, groups or organizations that want to weigh in on the proposed Office of Community Engagement at NCCU. Please feel free to call me at 530-6143 or e-mail me at [dbailey@nccu.edu](mailto:dbailey@nccu.edu) with your comments. My staff and I are also available to come to your department or unit to discuss the new Office of Community Engagement.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEEPENS CONNECTIONS FOR STUDENTS



North Carolina Central University journalism students who wrote stories for a community newspaper developed a greater sense of social responsibility and commitment to their sources, according to preliminary research by an NCCU professor.

Students on the staff of the Northeast Central Durham Community Voice, a classroom-based newspaper that covers Durham's tough "Bull's Eye" district, felt more connected to residents there and wanted to advocate for them through journalism.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## NCCU SELECTED FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATING BOYS OF COLOR

The Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC), a national organization dedicated to nurturing academic success in minority males, has selected North Carolina Central University as the location for its sixth annual conference next spring.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## NCCU LAUNCHES POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT GROUP FOR HBCU STUDENTS STATEWIDE

Looking to build on its success from the 2008 presidential election, the Institute for Civic Engagement and Social Change at North Carolina Central University has created a statewide network of students dedicated to voter empowerment in the 2012 election and beyond.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## NCCU STUDENTS SHOW HOW MUCH THEY 'CAARE



Tiffany Gary, a sophomore on the women's basketball team, smiled wide and stood on her tiptoes to hang an ornament near the top of the Christmas tree in the lobby of the CAARE Inc. center in downtown Durham.

With her long arms and graceful agility, it was easy for her to work high while fellow students decorated the lower part of the tree, sharing laughs as they untangled a mass of string lights.

It was a familiar and joyous sight around the holidays, but this one had a special twist. Gary was among nearly 20 volunteers from North Carolina Central University's Athletics Department who arrived at the nonprofit center Tuesday to decorate, pack meals, prepare care packages and help make the day brighter for those struggling in dark economic times.

[READ FULL STORY](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fourth Eagle Habitat Home Ribbon Cutting**, Dec. 17, noon, 814 Colfax St., Durham

**MLK Million Meals Project**, Jan. 16, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Duke University Freeman Center

**Blood Drive**, Jan. 17-19, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., NCCU A.E. Student Union

**MLK Week 2011 Convocation**, Jan. 19, 9:45 a.m., TBA

**Regional Science Bowl**, Jan. 27, 3 p.m., NCCU Mary M. Townes Science Building

**Second Annual Read-A-Thon**, Feb. 2, 7 a.m., NCCU Student Union

## STANDOUT STUDENT: ALPHONSO MCENTIRE



*Alphonso McEntire*

Alphonso McEntire may have a head for business, but his heart is all about helping others.

A graduating senior, McEntire is just days away from earning his degree in business administration from North Carolina Central University. It has been a transformative four years for the Brooklyn native, who came to Durham as a freshman and found himself intimidated by the campus requirement of 120 service hours for graduation.

[READ FULL STORY](#)