

## CSP

### Mission

#### Statement

*The mission of the NCCU Centennial Scholars Program is to provide participants with relevant academic, professional, and social experiences to be productive citizens without excuses.*

The CSP staff is always open to suggestions about how we can better serve you. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to us at [csp@nccu.edu](mailto:csp@nccu.edu) or call 919-530-7814.

# Centennial Scholars Program Eagles' Talon

## CSP Cultural Excursion Teaches History and Builds Bonds



*Damien Detrez Murray of Havelock, NC, imagines what it would be like to be Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during CSP Summer Bridge Cultural Excursion visit to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.*

The 48 Centennial Scholars Program students in the Summer Bridge Program recently visited several exciting places in Greensboro, NC, and Atlanta, GA, as part of a culminating educational experience to wrap up the five weeks they spent taking classes and attending workshops at North Carolina Central University. This cultural excursion included stops at several museums and historic sites, as well as a team-building trip to an amusement park.

First on the agenda of the three-day trip was a visit to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, an archival center, collecting museum, and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and

human rights. "I learned about all of the history behind the major movements here in my own state," said Trey Pinnix, an education major from Greensboro, NC. "I learned how four regular college students would one day spark movements that would gain worldwide attention."

The next day, students experienced the MLK Visitors Center, which consisted of a memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King preached his ministry of nonviolence.

"At the MLK Visitors Center, I was at a loss for words," said business administration major Dennison Phifer of Charlotte, NC. "To actually learn about Martin Luther King Jr. as a person, I felt like he was there talking to me as I read. It was one of the greatest first experiences for me."

To celebrate the successful completion of the Summer Bridge Program and to further their relationship building, the scholars visited Six Flags Over Georgia. They spent hours conquering the rides and facing their fears. "I was afraid of

heights; I couldn't ever imagine myself that high in the air," Phifer recalled. "With the influence of my brothers from CSP and Mr. Dorsette, I was able to enjoy the rides."

Before heading back, the scholars participated in a religious observation at Changing a Generation Full Gospel Baptist Church.

"The most lasting impression I had was the church experience where everyone came together and participated in the worship. This was my first actual church experience, and I had a great time in the fellowship," said Cameron Clifton, a biology and political science major from Charlotte, NC.

While there were some growing pains for many of the Summer Bridge participants, they were able to positively reflect on the entire experience. "CSP is a wonderful program," noted athletic training major Archie "Trey" Hansley of Charlotte, NC. "It is a place where everyone is equal. We form a brotherhood with one another, and we can use one another to reach our goals."

## Centennial Scholars Program Summer Bridge Participants



*The CSP 2011 Summer Bridge Program students and staff outside of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visitors Center in Atlanta, GA.*

# Director's Welcome

## Faculty & Staff Spotlight



*Kevin Jones is the new assistant dean of students and director of the Alfonso Elder Student Union.*

"I am excited about the opportunity to be part of the NCCU community. As the director of the Student Union, I have already met several of the Centennial Scholars and have been heartened by their presence on the campus. I look forward to building relationships with men in the program. Throughout my career as an administrator, I have been very intentional about sharing my time and my story with young men seeking to better themselves, their families and their futures. College, for me, was such a catalyst for my growth and development; I want to encourage each Centennial Scholar to make the most of this time in his life. Continually pursue excellence while knowing that your struggles are necessary components of your journey to greatness."

Greetings Scholars, Families and Partners:

Though the heat and humidity are still lingering during the dog days of summer, in reality, the new school year is just days away. Be sure to set yourself up for success early on by developing positive routines and behaviors.

Research shows that students who sit in the front rows of the classroom are more engaged, take better notes, and participate more in class discussions, which ultimately translates into better grades. You never know when a CSP staff member will show up in your classroom for an unexpected visit, so make a great impression on us and your professor by being front and center.

It is very important to think before you act. What may seem like the easy answer or instant gratification could have severe consequences down the road. If you are in a situation that is becoming emotionally charged or making you uncomfortable, look at it from an outsider's point of view. Is the action you are considering really worth the potential risk?

Choose your friends wisely. Gravitate toward people who have similar interests, goals and values. We are judged by the company we keep. Whether you intend them to or not, your friendships can reflect positively or negatively on you. Be sure your friends encourage and support you rather than detract from what you are trying to accomplish.

Good luck in the new school year, and please make participating in the Centennial Scholars Program one of your top priorities.

Warmest regards,

Jason J. Dorsette



*Jason J. Dorsette  
CSP Director*

## Scholar Highlight

### Former Mentee Pays it Forward as Summer Mentor



*Sophomore William Edmond of Rocky Mount, NC, served as a peer mentor for the Aspiring Eagles Academy.*

Having been one of the lucky students who got to experience the support of a mentor during his freshman year, Centennial Scholars Program member William Edmond of Rocky Mount, NC, decided to pay it forward by serving as a peer mentor for the Aspiring Eagles Academy this summer.

As a freshman, Edmond met several times a week with his mentor from CSP. That relationship was extremely influential, and he wanted to help new students have a smooth transition to college life with his nurturing and guidance. As a peer mentor, Edmond supported his mentees in many ways, including moving in their belongings, eating with them in the cafeteria, playing games with them, and tutoring them in math and English.

Finding a way to meet the students' needs was sometimes a challenge. "I tried to compare the peer mentor position to a coaching position," Edmond said. "I was in a leadership position with a team of young freshmen. I was easily accessible throughout the entire program, and I feel that showed them that I genuinely cared for them."

The experience was extremely rewarding for Edmond. "I was most satisfied with knowing that I had a positive impact on the lives of the students from the Aspiring Eagles Academy," he said. "That is what I wanted to accomplish from the moment I started filling out my application long before the academy started."

Edmond plans to attend law school at NCCU after he graduates with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. "I plan to work as a clinical forensic psychologist where I would work with people involved with the legal system in a court-based clinic," he noted.

Edmond recommends that students find a good group of friends who have some of the same interests and work ethic that they have. "Just be mindful of the people you choose to be with and always be respectful," he said. "Have a good group of friends to keep you motivated, and the quality of respect will carry you a long way when your destination is graduation."

# New Staff Members Impact CSP

New staff members look to add to the success of the Centennial Scholars Program and the Division.



*Eldrin Deas*  
*Assistant Director*  
*Centennial Scholars*  
*Program*

Eldrin Deas is the new Assistant Director for the Centennial Scholars Program. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Morehouse College and a Master of Science degree in Social Foundations of Education from Georgia State University. He is also currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Culture, Curriculum and Change at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Deas taught high school mathematics courses for three years in DeKalb County, GA, before working at American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C. as a developer of state mathematics assessments. He believes that all students, when provided access to sufficient resources, can succeed at all levels of academia.



*Garry Morgan*  
*Community Director*  
*Richmond Residence*  
*Hall*  
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Garry Morgan of Brooklyn, NY, is the 2011-2012 Community Director in Richmond Hall. He is a full-time live-in staff member who will interact with, supervise, counsel, discipline, and mentor the Centennial Scholars Program students. Morgan earned dual bachelor's degrees in African American Studies and Sociology at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Cortland in Cortland, NY, and a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY. He was an active student leader invested in the academic success and transitional needs of minority students in college. This passion followed him into his career in student affairs, where he works to assist males adjusting to the rigor of the university environment.

"I am excited to witness the great things that the students of CSP will embark on. I look forward to supporting the achievement of their personal and professional goals," Morgan said. "Although it is cliché, college is one of the best times of life – but only if you make the most of it."



*Chinasa Nworu*  
*Community Director*  
*New Residence Hall*  
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Chinasa Nworu of Newark, NJ, is the 2011-2012 Community Director in New Residence Hall II. He is a full-time live-in staff member who will interact with, supervise, counsel, discipline and mentor the Centennial Scholars Program students. He earned a bachelor's degree in Communications at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, and a master's degree in Education at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. During his previous work in education, he was an outspoken student advocate with a focus on student retention, improving graduation rates, and overall academic/professional success for minority male students.

"I will play a big role in the CSP students' overall college experience outside of the classroom; hence, I have set high expectations for myself and my staff," Nworu said. "We will do our best to make the CSP Living and Learning Community in New Residence Hall a complete success."

## Did You Know? What's in a name?

Lee Biology Building (est. 1956) – Dr. James Sumner Lee was a longtime teacher and chair of the Biology Department.

Eagleson Residence Hall (est. 1968) – Frances M. Eagleson served the college from 1921 to 1963 in many teaching and administrative jobs, including dietitian, teacher, adviser, campus hostess and registrar.

Dent Human Sciences Building (est. 1952) – Diane Savage Dent was a teacher and chair of the Department of Home Economics from 1938 to 1960.

Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (est. 1999) – Renowned civil rights lawyer and NAACP leader Julius L. Chambers was NCCU's chancellor from 1993 to 2001.



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## Centennial Sudoku

		8		9	3			6
			7		6			
						4	1	
	1	9						
	4		6	3		5		1
8				7	1	9		2
2				8				
	3		9					
	8	4	1			7	3	5

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Place
August 10	RSVPs due for CSP Welcome Program (new students & families only)	5 p.m.	E-mail <a href="mailto:dkelly17@nccu.edu">dkelly17@nccu.edu</a> to RSVP
August 13	Residence hall check-in for all new students	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Residence Halls
	CSP Welcome Program	3 p.m. – 5 p.m.	B. N. Duke Auditorium
August 14	Week of Welcome (WOW) begins		
August 18-21	Residence hall check-in for continuing students	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Residence Halls
August 22	First day of classes		
August 25	CSP Cohort 3 Meeting (location TBD)	7 p.m.	
August 29	First day to withdraw		
September 5	Labor Day observance – No classes		
September 8	CSP Cohort 3 Meeting (location TBD)	7 p.m.	
September 12	CSP Cohort 1 Meeting (location TBD)	7 p.m.	
September 13	CSP Cohort 2 Meeting (location TBD)	7 p.m.	
September 19	CSP General Body Meeting (all cohorts)	7 p.m.	
September 22	CSP Cohort 3 Meeting (location TBD)	7 p.m.	

# CSP's Scholarly Tips

## Helpful hints to make better students

Welcome back to school Centennial Scholars! Whether you are a freshman, sophomore or junior, you get to start from scratch every semester. It doesn't matter if you got a D in your 8 a.m. calculus class last semester or if you had a bad case of "senioritis" in your last year of high school. Every new semester is a new opportunity. So, *take advantage* of it! Take the time to get organized *now*, and when things get hectic later on, you'll be prepared. Here are some tips for starting off your semester well:

**Get Organized** - Now is the time for time management. Get a planner (paper or electronic) and organize your semester now. Write down all your major assignments and figure out how to distribute your workload each week. Be sure to account for other activities that will take up time.

**Don't Be a Slacker** - Resist the urge to slack off the first couple of weeks. If you fall behind now, you will have to make up the work when you are busier.

**Get Your Money's Worth** - Go to all of your classes on the first day. This is when your professor explains what is expected of you and introduces you to the class. Professors dislike it when students skip the first day, and it makes a bad impression. If you *have* to miss the first day, call and apologize and stop during office hours to chat about the syllabus.

**Get Informed** - Read the syllabus and familiarize yourself with the content. The syllabus is a contract that outlines the rules of the class and the penalties for breaking these rules. It also tells you how you are going to be graded and what is expected of you.

**Read, Read, Read** - Get off to a good start with the readings. You are probably not too busy yet, so make sure you do all of the readings. Otherwise, you will have to make them up later when you are busy. If you have time, read ahead.

CSP Sodoku Solutions

5	8	7	2	9	1	4	8	6
4	2	8	7	5	6	1	3	9
6	6	1	4	8	3	7	5	2
2	4	6	1	7	5	3	6	9
1	8	5	6	3	9	2	4	7
3	7	9	8	4	2	6	1	5
7	1	4	5	2	8	9	6	3
8	9	3	6	1	7	1	2	4
3	5	2	3	6	9	8	4	1



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