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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 or call 919-530-7814.

Centennial Scholars Program Eagles' Talon

NCCU Men Display Talent and Help the Boys & Girls Club



The musical stylings of the TJ Walker Band were impressive enough to garner a first-place win in the iRep Talent Showcase. Pictured are (l to r) Emmanuel Smith (drums), Timothy Walker (lead vocals), Howard Joyner (keyboard) and Andrew Barnes (bass) accepting their trophy.

Eight acts recently competed for the hefty trophy and bragging rights as NCCU's most talented males during the inaugural iRep Talent Showcase, but in the end, one group reigned supreme. The TJ Walker Band walked away as the first place winner with the modeling troupe Evaluesco and Nigel Hood earning second and third place, respectively.

The Centennial Scholars Program teamed up with the NCCU Department of Athletics to provide

NCCU male students an opportunity to display their many talents and to highlight the positive things they are doing on campus. "More often than not, the media and society magnify the negatives and the short comings of black men," said Jason Dorsette, Director of the Centennial Scholars Program. "The iRep Talent Showcase provides a positive platform for our male students to exhibit their many unique talents."

The entertainment included rap, song, modeling, keyboard players, bands, and spoken word. Well-known radio personality Wade Banner from K97.5, author Tiffany Montgomery, Mr. NCCU Mark Turner, and Miss NCCU Kelsey Hargrove served as judges.

The event was free; however, donations of \$3 or three canned goods were encouraged for entry. The donations were given to the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Durham to provide meals to less fortunate families in the Durham community during Thanksgiving.

The event was a huge success and CSP hopes to build on it for next year. "With this being our first time ever doing anything like this, we were a bit unsure of how the campus would receive this idea," Dorsette said. "To our surprise, the School of Education Auditorium was almost full of students, faculty, staff and members of the Durham community. As we move forward, we are excited about continuing the iRep Male Talent Showcase. Our hope is to involve even more males next year and to include faculty, staff, and male students' fathers and care givers."

Happy December Birthdays

The Centennial Scholars Program would like to wish happy birthday to all of the following scholars:

David Addo
Jakai Baker
Trei Banks
Quintin Beard
Rakeem Best
Darius Boykin
Jaquel Brown
Aaron Cohoon
Devan Coley
Quentin Cooper

Aaron Coston
Vincent Finney
Marcus Griffin
Clinton Harris
Marcus Joyner
Dominique martin
Brandon McCauley
James McCroskey
Kazel Mutombo
Jwan Nelson

Antonio Padgett
Tyler Patterson
Billy Pennington
Darius Rogers
Walter Scarlett
Alan Thompson
Christopher Thompson
John Michael Thompson
Jeremy Vick
Clayton Welch

Korey Williams
Kamau Williams-Hampton
Diondre Wilson
Dominique Wright

Faculty & Staff Spotlight



David Kröll is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at NCCU. He is also a cancer researcher in BRITE working on the discovery of new anticancer drugs from natural sources, especially microscopic fungi that grow in the soil.

"My advice to Centennial Scholars is to never be afraid to ask for help and never be afraid to admit that you need help. That goes for academics, mental health, relationships – whatever. We are so fortunate at NCCU to have a rich community of people from all backgrounds who want you to be a success, not just as a scholar, but also as a gentleman. And when you have successes, always maintain humility. You are never too smart to learn from others. A perfect example is from my having met your director, Jason Dorsette, when he was a student. I had the chance to interview him for a science blog I write (http://scienceblogs.com/terrasia/2010/06/jason_dorsette_scholar_leader.php). In our discussions, he taught me how best to be a mentor to young African-American men even though I'm a white dude from Jersey. Listening to students, science and non-science, has taught me more about how to be a professor and mentor than any workshop or class could do."

Director's Message

Greetings Scholars, Families and Partners:

It is that time of year again when people see the dawning of a new year and pause to contemplate the changes they can make to improve their lives. For most people, this brings to mind losing weight or quitting smoking. While these are important aspirations, they can also be very overwhelming. Instead of thinking on such a large scale that may set you up for failure by February, consider making some less drastic, more attainable goals.

Here are 10 resolutions that will help improve the life of just about any college student

(some tips adapted from <http://blog.studentadvisor.com>):

1. Make your study periods longer than your study breaks.
2. Call home to say hi to your family because you care about them and not just to beg for money.
3. Use that roll of quarters to do your laundry and not on "emergency" snack food.
4. Realize that running to class because you are late does not count as exercise.
5. Stop pretending to take notes while updating your Facebook status in class.
6. Make sure your professors know you by sitting in the front row and using their office hours.
7. See your CSP advisor at least twice a month.
8. Reinvest the money from your old textbooks in next semester's texts.
9. Read that \$500 worth of textbooks this time around.
10. Stay involved in CSP by attending all the meetings and events to reap the full benefits of the program.

Small changes can pay big dividends. Don't be discouraged if you are met with setbacks along the way. Tomorrow is another day to try again. You do not have to wait for a major event like a new year, a new month, or a new week to start anew. Right this very minute is a great time to start fresh.

Remember, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." We believe in each of you.

Warmest regards,

Jason J. Dorsette



Jason J. Dorsette
CSP Director

32 CSP Members Attend Minority Male Mentoring Conference

The Centennial Scholars Program (CSP) recently provided an opportunity for 32 students and three staff members to participate in the three-day 2011 Minority Male Mentoring Conference in Durham titled "The New Renaissance: An Innovative Approach to Education."

Scholars took part in engaging sessions such as "I Am a Brand," which focused on personal branding and putting oneself in position to be marketable during and after college, and "No Man is an Island: Defining and Valuing Networking," which spoke to the power of networking and making contacts in one's chosen field.

"I thought it was an excellent experience for us scholars because we got a chance to learn about differ-

ent aspects of college life," said first-year CSP member Terrell Snipes of Raleigh, NC. "We learned new skills to be successful in college and beyond."

CSP members, as well as students from many of North Carolina's 58 community colleges, were treated to an interview with actress, entrepreneur and social activist, Tatyana Ali, as well as a powerful keynote speech by Washington, D.C.-based award-winning journalist, social activist and political commentator Jeff Johnson. Mr. Johnson delivered messages on issues including manhood, academic success, and being citizens of the world. The speech challenged the beliefs of many of the audience members and opened up the pos-

sibility for dialogue regarding topics that many conference attendees previously viewed as socially taboo. According to several students, Mr. Johnson's keynote speech was eye opening, motivating, and inspiring.

"The conference taught me much about how learning never stops and how open-mindedness takes you a long way in life," said Cameron Clifton of Charlotte, NC, a first-year CSP member. "In particular, Jeff Johnson expressed to us that men need to be men and not boys. Also, Tatyana Ali advised us that when learning, we should be sponges and absorb much information as possible."



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Scholar Highlight

Non-Traditional CSP Transfer Student Raises Son while Hitting the Books



Eric Garrett is spending the 2011-2012 academic year working in the CSP Office as the minority male mentoring fellow.

Attending college is challenging for any student, but when you throw in the additional complications of having a child and working full time, it becomes downright difficult. For Centennial Scholars Program member Eric D. Garrett of Henderson, NC, balancing having a son, working

and going to school is a daily undertaking.

Though it is tough, Garrett perseveres knowing that he is making a better life for himself and his son. "Having a child is the only reason I'm still fighting," said Garrett, a senior public administration major. "My son is my life. Every decision I make in life now is based upon how that decision would affect him."

Garrett began his college career at Winston-Salem State University and Vance Granville Community College, but decided he was looking for something more. "I transferred to North Carolina Central because I saw so many minority students who were so passionate about being successful," he said. "There was a sense of brotherhood that I felt once I arrived on

campus for my first visit, and it didn't take long to decide NCCU was the place for me."

Now that he is here on campus, he continues to be impressed by what he experiences. "I have never seen so many minority males so about their business. Men here at NCCU are men of character and standards," he said. "It's amazing to see young African Americans who actually stick together and believe in another man's vision."

Even with his already busy schedule, Garrett finds time to be involved at the University. He is the vice president of the Undergraduate Public Administration Club and works as a minority male mentoring fellow with CSP Associate Director Ardell Sanders on issues that face transfer students. He said the position is

perfect for him because he gets to follow his passions. "I love helping people and seeing people excel. Nothing makes me happier than to help someone, see them prosper and know that you have made a difference," Sanders noted. "Knowing I have been through everything that a college student can possibly go through, it's like I was born for this. I owe it to these students to help them graduate and be all they can be."

Garrett plans to pursue a career in Higher Education after graduating from NCCU. He would eventually like to earn a master's degree and later attend Law School.

CSP's Scholarly Tips

Helpful hints to make better students

Holiday Budgeting Tips (adapted from yahoo.com and bankrate.com)

- 1. Start a Savings Account!** Thinking ahead? Nice work! If you know that you cannot save money for extended periods of time, then start a savings account or anything that you can use save your money. The ability to gain interest would be a bonus. When the holidays come around, you will have a security blanket.
- 2. Avoid Credit Card Debt!** Getting a credit card in college is relatively easy. Many companies offer limited credit lines with high interest rates, and most do not require a minimum income. Credit card companies bombard college campuses because they know today's students will soon become tomorrow's accountants, doctors, and lawyers. The earlier they get students to use the plastic, the better. If you have a credit card, pay off your balance every month to avoid interest charges that can be nearly 30 percent.
- 3. Quit being Naughty!** If you plan on spending all of your money on unhealthy coping mechanisms, bribing your professors during finals, and partying after finals are over, go back to the drawing board. You don't need these things. Use the cash you'll save to make a donation to your favorite charity.

