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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.

CSP welcomes financial support. Please contact jdorsette@nccu.edu for details about how you can give to the program.

Centennial Scholars Program Eagles' Talon

NCCU and UNC-G Partner for PUSH Symposium



Dr. Mark Villacorta (third from left), Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, leads a session focusing on knowing yourself as the foundation for embracing diversity for the attendees of the inaugural PUSH Symposium.

North Carolina Central University's Centennial Scholars Program and The University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Rites of Passage Program co-hosted a minority male symposium titled "Propelling Undergraduate Students Higher" (PUSH) on March 24 targeted at students attending high schools, community colleges and four-year universities. The one-day symposium sought to encourage students to keep taking the next steps

in their education and to be successful in all aspects of their lives.

Within the last couple of decades, the plight of minority males in higher education has received serious attention in popular and social science literature. This increasing attention and not-so-pleasant data prompted NCCU to reach out to UNC-G to ask if they would like to partner to host a much-needed symposium for

Neckties Lead to Interpersonal Ties at Campus Event

There's a Windsor, Half Windsor, Prat, and Four in Hand, but any way you knot it, many young men today don't know how to tie a necktie. That is why NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms asked the Centennial Scholars Program to host the "Ties of Honor Campaign" in February.

Chancellor Nelms' idea was three fold: teach the business leaders of tomorrow how to dress professionally without spending a great deal of money, offer them a practical skill that will last a lifetime, and connect these young men with successful male faculty and staff members to

encourage interactions that go beyond the classroom.

By all measures, "Ties of Honor" was an overwhelming success. Approximately 75 students and 25 faculty and staff members were on hand and nearly 400 ties were donated from members of the NCCU family and the public. Students left with a new tie or two to supplement their wardrobe and a tighter sense of community.

"It was a really cool event; I liked it," said sophomore Political Science and Public Administration major Michael

minority males.

Despite the rainy weather, a number of students, advisors, and guests from all over the state of North Carolina participated in the one-day event that took place at NCCU. The symposium featured author and motivational speaker Kenston J. Griffin and H360 Capital Managing Partner and CEO Hezekiah Griggs III as keynote speakers.

An array of 50-minute breakout sessions were offered to allow attendees to customize their experience. Other highlights for the student conference participants were receiving a tour of NCCU's campus, dining in the newly renovated Pearson Cafeteria, and having time to fellowship.

Based on word-of-mouth feedback that day and in the written evaluations, participants found the PUSH Symposium to be extremely relevant and impactful. Attendees stressed on their evaluations a desire for longer session meeting times and more opportunities like this in the future.

Provencher of Fayetteville, NC. "It was simple, yet effective – a good way to get some outside positive support for the students on something that is often taken for granted, but can make all the difference in interviews. I thought this was very creative, and look forward to what else CSP brings us."

Please read the additional press releases about "Ties of Honor."

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/02/28/1889855/attire-taught-at-nccu.html>

http://www.heraldsun.com/view/full_story/17672835/article-NCCU-students-get-to-tie-one-on

<http://www.thedurhamnews.com/2012/03/04/211473/dump-the-gansta-for-a-shirt-and.html>

Faculty & Staff Spotlight



Christopher L. Medley is the assistant director of residence life. He is an energetic, creative, and innovative outside-the-box person. These three things have allowed him to transcend all temporary obstacles placed in his path, allowing his life to be an interesting read from cover to cover. He is a servant within the helping profession ranging from his professional career as a student affairs practitioner and community service advocate to his service on non-profit boards of directors.

"You must have a personal and professional development plan that can change as you develop your own definition of success. A challenging and supportive network is critical to your progress and success in life. You will not get to the top by yourself, and you should not live there alone. Pull a brother and/or sister up the mountain with you. Just remember never to let them pull you down."

CSP welcomes financial support. Please contact jdorsette@nccu.edu for details about how you can give to the program.

Director's Message

Greetings Scholars, Families, and Partners:

We've nearly made it to the end of another academic year, but we are all at different stages in our journey. Some of us are just at the point where the training wheels can come off, while others have not quite got it all down pat. Though we have much to celebrate, this year has not been without its challenges. From losing loved ones to facing academic troubles, we have all experienced some rough waters in one way or another.

In trying times, it is good to know you have people around you who support and nurture you. The staff in the CSP Office is always there for you, but for many of us, it's our

parents and caregivers who are the cornerstone that sustains us through the tough times. To recognize those who mean the most to us, CSP is hosting the CSP Heroes Showcase. Students are encouraged to invite their parents and/or caregivers to the program on Saturday, May 5, from noon to 2 p.m. in the A.E. Student Union Lobby. Family members will be able to see what their students have been up to all year, and students will have the opportunity to pay tribute to their family members.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Kelly at dkelly17@nccu.edu to RSVP with the names of those attending by April 27. If you are looking to get in a few more community service hours before the end of the semester, you are welcome to volunteer



Jason J. Dorsette
CSP Director

to work at the CSP Heroes Showcase. Please contact Mr. Nworu at cnworu@nccu.edu to let him know your availability.

As always, keep your focus on academics and the upcoming final exams. We want the spring 2012 semester to break all CSP GPA records! We believe in each of you.

Warmest regards,
Jason J. Dorsette

Four in CSP Family Honored at King's Leadership Awards



Four members of the CSP family were recently recognized during the King Leadership Awards. Pictured (left to right) are Jack Waissen, Randy Person, Corey Mercer and Alejandro Espitia.

Two Centennial Scholars Program students and two CSP student office assistants were recently honored at the inaugural King Leadership Awards in February. The event celebrated NCCU males' accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to the university and was part of Mr. NCCU's platform to project a brighter male image on campus.

Freshman Randy Person of Knightdale, NC, received the Emerging

Eagle Award which recognized an individual based on his involvement in campus activities, leadership initiatives, school pride and overall contributions to student organizations or programs.

Junior Corey Mercer of Durham, NC, was recognized with the James Edward Shepard Award which honored an individual who has upheld North Carolina Central University's Motto of "Truth and Service." The individual selected must have contributed an outstanding amount of community service.

Senior Alejandro Espitia, an exchange student from Columbia,

was honored with the Chancellor's Academic Excellence Award which is given to an individual earning an exceptional grade point average while demonstrating a healthy balance of campus and community involvement.

Senior Jack Waissen, an exchange student from England, was granted the Student Athlete Award which is given to a young man who works hard for his community, on the athletic field and in the classroom. Student-athletes must participate in at least 30 percent of the scheduled games/matches and also finish the season in good athletic and academic standing.

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Scholar Highlight

CSP's Jowan Council Soars with Air Force ROTC as a New Eagle



Freshman Centennial Scholar Jowan Council, Bunnlevel, NC, is working hard in the NCCU Air Force ROTC program to eventually become a lawyer in the Armed Services.

Students new to a college campus often look to join activities that will spark their interests and make them feel as though they belong. Freshman political science major Jowan Council came to Central thinking he would play football like he did in high school, but instead decided to join the Air Force ROTC program, another activity he participated in and loved throughout high school.

Through the Air Force ROTC program, Council has enjoyed once-in-a-lifetime experiences. "Last semester in November, we got to do a mission in the air," he recalled. "In the Air Force, sometimes planes have to go out and actually refuel others while in the air. We got to go up in the air, sit in a plane, and watch this happen. We actually flew to South Carolina after leaving from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base outside of Goldsboro, NC."

The Bunnlevel, NC, native credits his mother with being a supportive influence in his life. Council cites her as a motivation. "I always wanted to be in the Air Force because my mom wanted to be in it but didn't have the opportunity when she was younger," he said.

Council said his first year in college has been pretty smooth overall and looks back on the CSP Summer Bridge Program with fondness. "We had a lot of fun then; we had some good times," he said.

He lives by the quote, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." "We all have some tough times in life but the main thing is once you learn from it, you can overcome anything," he reflected.

Council was recently selected to participate in the ALI program this summer run by H360 Capital Managing Partner and CEO Hezekiah Griggs III, who he met through CSP. After graduating from NCCU, he plans to attend law school and ultimately become an Air Force lawyer.

CSP's Scholarly Tips

Helpful hints to make better students



"Are you ready for finals?" You will hear this question 5 million times as the semester ends. Use these tips and you can reply with a confident "YES!"

- **GET SERIOUS – RESPECT YOUR JOB:** At this point in your life, you may not have a career, but you have held some position of responsibility. Being off-task or tardy would have been unacceptable. If you have been a disciplined worker for someone else's business, respect your own business – your academic life – enough to be serious even when no one is looking.
- **CREATE A VISUAL – AVOID THE SNEAK ATTACK:** Did you remember that essay due the Monday after Spring Break? Even you are not the type who plans well, in the age of smartphones and iPads, you have a variety of options to store exam and assignment due dates to see them "at-a-glance." Do not fail due to disorganization.
- **ADOPT SPECIFIC STUDY METHODS:** *Chop It Up* so that 350 pages of review material is not overwhelming. Always break down challenging tasks into pieces; give yourself deadlines and stick to them. *Say It Loud and Proud* by reading aloud to improve memorization. You are also less likely to skip over difficult parts, improving comprehension. To catch mistakes, read your writing aloud too.



Left photo: NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms (left) assists freshman Centennial Scholar Dennison Phifer in tying a double-Windsor knot on a necktie at the Ties of Honor event in the Alfonso Elder Student Union.

Right Photo: Members of Durham Technical College's VISIONS Program were among the numerous participants in the inaugural PUSH Symposium held at NCCU. Here the gentlemen enjoy the many brunch options offered in the Pearson Cafeteria.



