A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING HUGH CALE, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND
COMMENDING ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF
EDUCATION ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR OF THE UNIVERSITY’S FOUNDING.

Whereas, Hugh Cale was a black man born in 1835, in Perquimans County to John and Betsy Cale; and Whereas, as a young man, Hugh Cale moved to Elizabeth City where he became a very influential and wellrespected resident; and Whereas, Hugh Cale was active in the Mt. Lebanon Church and the local Masons; and Whereas, Hugh Cale, a leader in civic affairs, was elected justice of the peace, served two terms on the board of county commissioners, was a member of the county board of education, and was treasurer of Elizabeth City; and Whereas, Hugh Cale helped petition to get the town’s first fire engine, was a trustee for the first local black cemetery, and was president of the first fair held by blacks in Pasquotank County; and Whereas, Hugh Cale’s aspirations to achieve a higher office became a reality when he was elected to the House of Representatives of the General Assembly in 1876 and went on to serve in the 1879, 1880, 1885, and 1891 Sessions of the General Assembly; and Whereas, Hugh Cale worked hard to improve the life and educational opportunities for blacks in northeastern North Carolina; and Whereas, on March 3, 1891, the General Assembly of North Carolina ratified House Bill 383, sponsored by representative Hugh Cale that read as follows:

Section 1. That it shall be the duty of the state board of education to establish a normal school at Elizabeth City, in the county of Pasquotank, for the teaching and training of teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of the state.

Section 2. That the sum of five hundred dollars from the Fayetteville normal school fund and the further sums of one hundred dollars each from the Salisbury, Franklinton, Goldsboro and Plymouth normal schools funds are hereby appropriated for the payment of instructors in said normal school at Elizabeth City.

Section 3. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This act shall go into effect from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and ninety two.; and

Whereas, Hugh Cale died in 1910, knowing that his life had made a significant impact on those who knew him; and Whereas, Hugh Cale would be proud that Elizabeth City State Normal School became Elizabeth City State University, a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina, dedicated to the pursuit of academic excellence; and Whereas, Elizabeth City State University has expanded from a teacher preparatory institution to a university that offers bachelors degrees in a wide variety of courses; and Whereas, on the one hundredth year of the University’s founding, it is fitting that the General Assembly honors Hugh Cale and recognizes the progress that Elizabeth City State University has made; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly wishes to honor the life and memory of Hugh Cale.

Section 2. The General Assembly commends Elizabeth City State University for its contributions to the advancement of education. The General Assembly further extends it congratulations on the centennial celebration of Elizabeth City State University.

Section 3. The speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate may appoint a delegation of the General Assembly to meet in Elizabeth City on Friday, March 1, 1991, to hold a mock session of the General Assembly for the purpose of commemorating the centennial of Elizabeth City State University.

Section 4. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins of Elizabeth City State University

Section 5. This resolution is effective upon ratification. In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 4th day of March, 1991.

James C. Gardner President of the Senate Daniel Blue, Jr. Speaker of the House of Representatives
March 12, 2021

Honored Guests, Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni,

Welcome to Elizabeth City State University’s 130th Founders Day Convocation. Although we are in a virtual environment, we continue to honor our rich history and focus on the bright future of our beloved ECSU. We celebrate Hugh Cale, Peter Weddick Moore, and John Henry Bias—visionary leaders who paved the way for administrators, faculty, staff, and students who would follow them.

We salute our keynote speaker, Mr. Montre Freeman, an alumnus of Elizabeth City State University, who has returned to this area to serve in the capacity of City Manager of the City of Elizabeth City. We commend this second-generation Viking, and public servant for returning to the place he calls “home” and the place that launched his professional life. We look forward to hearing from Mr. Freeman, as he inspires, motivates, and challenges us as we forge ECSU’s future!

Let us continue to uphold the legacy of our founders as we remain focused on higher education, focused on shaping and preparing our students for all that their future holds, and focused on upholding the standards, ideals, and morals that are the foundation of our beloved institution.

Happy 130th Founders Day to THE ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY.

Sincerely,

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor
March 1, 2021

Chancellor Karrie Dixon
Elizabeth City State University
1704 Weeksville Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Dear Chancellor Dixon,

Heartfelt congratulations, my friend, on the celebration of Elizabeth City State University’s 130th Founders Day. You and the entire ECSU community have so much to be proud of as you mark this institution’s storied past and look ahead to its equally inspiring future.

I truly believe that the founding of the Elizabeth City State University marks one of the most promising days in the history of North Carolina. For recognizing the God-given talent and potential of all our citizens; for embracing the righteous work of uplifting and educating all North Carolinians; for imagining a future where all of our people have the opportunities they need, the Founders of Elizabeth City State University deserve our everlasting gratitude.

I hope this year’s celebrations are especially joyous. This generation of students, faculty, and staff are leading ECSU to an era of renewed growth and ambition, and I know all North Carolinians will join me in celebrating with you.

Warmly,

Peter Hans
President
On January 11, 2021, Montre D. Freeman became the 1st African-American sworn to hold the seat of City Manager for the City of Elizabeth City, NC. In his role of City Manager, Montre serves as the CEO of the city where he is responsible for all city personnel and operations. He is also responsible for the city’s 67-million-dollar budget and keeping the Council informed on matters that impact the citizens of Elizabeth City.

Prior to his appointment to City Manager, he served as the Town Administrator for Enfield, NC. He also served as a compliance officer for two mental health agencies.

Montre was born, reared and educated in Bertie County and often posts the phrase “Bertie Stand Up” when celebrating Bertie County natives on social media. He is a 1992 graduate of Bertie High School and went on to attend Elizabeth City State University, where he was a standout football player and member of the track team. In the fall of 1995, he pledged the Legendary Lambda Gamma Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. In 1996, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He entered the workforce holding a variety of positions in state and federal government as well as an executive position with Lowes Distribution Centers. In 2013, Montre was admitted into North Carolina Central University’s School of Law. He would go on to graduate in 2017 receiving a dual degree of Juris Doctor and Master of Public Administration. While in law school, Montre belonged to several student organizations and was selected to represent the Legal Eagles at the National Football League’s Negotiation Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Outside of the office, Montre continues to impact the lives of youth and young adults by hosting internship opportunities and mentoring young men and women about the power of academia, decision making, entrepreneurship, and local government.

He has appeared on several news outlets and was featured in a WRAL Documentary entitled, Disconnected, to discuss the impact of the digital divide in rural North Carolina. Montre is married to the Honorable Teresa R. Freeman, a District Court Judge for Judicial District 6 which serves Halifax, Northampton, Hertford and Bertie Counties. They have two beautiful children Maleah Ellyse and Kingston Lenix. Montre is the proud son of William A. Freeman, a 1972 graduate of Elizabeth City State University and Rosa B. Freeman a 1994 graduate of Elizabeth City State University. He also has a twin brother who is a 1997 and 2013 graduate of Elizabeth City State University, so it’s safe to say that Viking Pride is a family affair. He stands on the shoulders of all of those who made sacrifices for him to be who he is today and he thanks them immensely.
ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

130th Founders Day CONVOCATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 | 10:00 A.M.

PRESIDING
Dr. Karrie G. Dixon, Chancellor

PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEMS
“The Star Spangled Banner” Francis Scott Key (1779-1843); arr. Steve Smith
John Clingman Chappell, ECSU University Choir
“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954),
arr. Roland M. Carter (2020)
105 Voices of History National HBCU Concert Choir

INVOCATION
Pastor Benny Oakes, First United Methodist Church, Elizabeth City, NC

OCCASION
Mekayla Stokley ‘21, Miss Elizabeth City State University

RECOGNITION OF FOUNDING FAMILIES
Mr. Abdul Sm. Rasheed
President, ECSU National Alumni Association, Inc.

GREETINGS
Mrs. Jan King Robinson, Chair, ECSU Board of Trustees
Dr. Peter M. Eley, Chair, ECSU Foundation Board

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER
Dr. Karrie G. Dixon, Chancellor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Mr. Montre’ D. Freeman
City Manager of Elizabeth City, NC

MUSICAL SELECTION
“Go Down Moses” Adolphus Hailstork (b.1941)
ECSU University Choir - Dr. Walter Swan, Conductor
The Memorial Candlelighting Ceremony
~Video Presentation~

PRESIDING
Dr. Farrah J. Ward, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

MEMORIAL PRAYER .................................................................................................. Reverend Dr. Ricky Banks, Senior Pastor
St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, NC

SYMBOLIC WREATH LAYING IN MEMORY OF .................................................. The Honorable Hugh Cale
Dr. Peter W. Moore and Dr. John H. Bias

SOUNDING OF TAPS ............................................................................................... Mr. Jamari Williams ’24, Trumpet

THE ALMA MATER ......................................................................................... Joy W. Brown and Evelyn A. Johnson
ECSU University Choir - Dr. Walter Swan, Conductor

BENEDICTION ....................................................................................................... Pastor Benny Oakes
ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOUNDING
On March 3, 1891, Hugh Cale, an African-American representative in the N.C. General Assembly from Pasquotank County, sponsored House Bill 383, which established a normal (teaching) school for “teaching and training teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of North Carolina.” The bill passed, and the origin of Elizabeth City State University was born. The institution’s first name was Elizabeth City State Colored Normal School (1891-1939).

EARLY LEADERSHIP
The first leader, Peter W. Moore, was called a Principal (subsequent leaders would be called President, then Chancellor). Moore served as Principal and then President until his retirement as President, Emeritus, on July 1, 1928. During his tenure, enrollment increased from 23 to 355 and the faculty from two to 15 members. During the tenure of the second president, John Henry Bias, the institution was elevated from a two-year normal school to a four-year teachers college (1937). Two years later, the institution’s name was officially changed to Elizabeth City State Teachers College (1939-1963). The growth and elevation to teachers college changed the mission to include training elementary school principals for rural and city schools. The first Bachelor of Science degrees in elementary education were awarded in May of 1939.

CONTINUED GROWTH
Between 1959 and 1963, the institution became more than a teaching college, adding 11 academic majors to the original elementary education major. In 1961, the college joined the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accrediting group (SACS) and maintains its accreditation with that body to the present. In 1963, the N.C. General Assembly changed the institution’s name from Elizabeth City State Teachers College to Elizabeth City State College (1963-1969) and on, July 1, 1969, the college became Elizabeth City State University. In 1971, the General Assembly redefined the University of North Carolina system with 16 public institutions, including ECSU. Together, those institutions became constituents of The University of North Carolina (July 1972).

TODAY
Academics. Currently ECSU offers over 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with several online degree options. From business to education to aviation and emergency management, ECSU prepares students to compete in the global work force. We achieve our commitment to the highest quality education by maintaining a rigorous focus on academic excellence through liberal arts programs and using innovative and flexible technology-based instruction models to enhance our signature areas: integrating technology with ed-ucation, improving human health and wellness, and advancing the natural and aviation sciences. As of May 2020, undergraduate and/or graduate degrees have been conferred upon more than 20,000 students.

Rankings. Over the years, the university fared well among publications that rank institutions. ECSU has earned national acclaim for its advancements: U.S. News and World Report ranked ECSU #7 Top Public Schools, #14 Top Performers in Social Mobility, #22 Top HBCUs, #36 Best Regional College, South (2020-21). Washington Monthly ranked ECSU #11 Best Bang for the Buck Colleges (2020-21). ECSU ranks 4th in Best Colleges Top 10 HBCUs in the Nation (2021). ECSU has, for the sixth time, been ranked as one of the nation’s Military Friendly Schools for small public universities, ranking 5th in the nation for small schools (2021-22). Military Times ranked ECSU 84th in the nation for Best Bet for Vets (2020). Best Historically Black Colleges ranked ECSU #6 (2020).

On December 14, 2018 Dr. Karrie Dixon was named 12th Chief Executive Officer and 7th Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University.

Updated March 2021
Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Mickey Lynn Burnim, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 1995-2006

Willie James Gilchrist, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2007-2013

Charles L. Becton, J.D.
Interim Chancellor, 2013-2014

Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Jimmy Raymond Jenkins, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 1983-1995
Chancellor Emeritus, 1995-

Sidney David Williams, A.M., D.PED.
President, 1946-1958
President Emeritus, 1969-1974

Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Thomas E. H. Conway, Jr.  Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2016-2018

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2018-

Hugh Cale
Founder and Member of the N.C. General Assembly

Peter Weddick Moore, A.M., LL.D.
Principal, 1891-1928
President Emeritus, 1928-1934

Willie James Gilchrist, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2007-2013

John Henry Bias, A.B., LL.D.
President, 1928-1939

Jimmy Raymond Jenkins, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 1983-1995
Chancellor Emeritus, 1995-

Sidney David Williams, A.M., D.PED.
President, 1946-1958
President Emeritus, 1969-1974

Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Thomas E. H. Conway, Jr.  Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2016-2018

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2018-

Harold Leonard Trigg, Ed.D.
President, 1939-1945

Charles L. Becton, J.D.
Interim Chancellor, 2013-2014

Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Thomas E. H. Conway, Jr.  Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2016-2018

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2018-

Sidney David Williams, A.M., D.PED.
President, 1946-1958
President Emeritus, 1969-1974

Stacey Franklin Jones, Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2014-2015

Thomas E. H. Conway, Jr.  Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2016-2018

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2018-

Walter Nathaniel Ridley, Ed.D.
President, 1958-1968
President Emeritus, 1988-1996

Marion Dennis Thorpe, Ph.D.
President, 1968-1972
Chancellor, 1972-1983

Thomas E. H. Conway, Jr.  Ph.D.
Chancellor, 2016-2018

Karrie G. Dixon, Ed.D.
Chancellor, 2018-
Elizabeth City State University

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Lydia Daniel
Karrie G. Dixon, Chancellor
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Abdul Sm. Rasheed ‘71, NAA President
Timothy R. Rodgers, Sr. ‘83
Ervin Simons ‘71
Barbara B. Sutton ‘74
ALMA MATER

To thee, dear Alma Mater,
A tribute song we sing,
Of thy true worth to all of us,
O may we honor bring.

Chorus
Hail to thy lovely halls, ECSU
We’ll hear when duty calls, ECSU
Faithful and ever true, we’ll be to you
For in our hearts, we’ll still love thee ECSU.

So now we’ll join together,
For thee O State to work,
Let none of us be faint of heart
Nor any duty shirk.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list’ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
    Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
    Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
    Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
    Let us march on till victory is won!
CHARTER

An Act to establish a normal School for the colored race in the town of Elizabeth City in the County of Pasquotank.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Sec. 1. That it shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to establish a Normal School at Elizabeth City in the County of Pasquotank for the teaching and training of teachers of the colored race to teach in the common schools of the State.

Sec. 2. That the sum of five hundred dollars from the Fayetteville Normal School Fund and the further sum of one hundred dollars each from the Robeson, Washington, Johnston, and Pitt Normal School Funds, are hereby appropriated for the payment of instructors in said Normal School at Elizabeth City.

Sec. 3. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This Act shall go into effect from and after the 1st day of January 1872.

The General Assembly passed Three Times, and ratified this the 5th day of March 1871.

R. A. Devereaux
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

This be enacted
President of the Senate.