Chancellor’s Address

Faculty/Staff Institute, January 9, 2013

Good morning. Happy New Year!

I trust that all of you had a rewarding and restful holiday and you are ready for another successful semester. I realize that unforeseen challenges will sometimes maneuver into our well-developed plans as we work towards elevating our goals; however, we must continue to remain focused on why we are here……our students.

At the beginning of each semester, I like to review our core values:

- ECSU is guided by a commitment to excellence.
- Accountability – it is extremely important that we continue to be responsible for our actions.
- Delivering quality customer service to everyone will ensure that this core value remains intact.
- Diversity of viewpoints, experiences, and backgrounds are critical tools of a quality education in our global marketplace.
- Excellence is the measure for teaching, learning, and service to the university community.
- Preparing students holistically - the full measure of personal, professional, and social development of our students, faculty, and staff is an integral part of the ECSU philosophy: "to live is to learn."

I challenge each of you to review these core values and help us ensure that these values are executed this 2013 spring semester. It is imperative that we keep assessment at the forefront of our daily activities. Division heads, deans, administrators, faculty it is important to collect data, analyze that data and use it to make improvements. Document your findings to develop and make improvements. Remember, if you can’t document improvements, then they didn’t happen. As more and more external stakeholders require assessment data, we will continue to make adjustments in the data we collect and use in decision making. Employees, assessment is here to stay!

Retention. As reported in a previous institute session, our retention efforts are directly tied to funding. We have done well however, we must do better. It is imperative that you provide and adhere to office hours as well as making recommendations to the appropriate office for tutorial services. In order for our students to compete in this economy, your rigor is key to their success. It is great to provide an opportunity to young people, however; it is equally as important to assist them throughout their entire college life. I encourage you to continue on this path.
Elizabeth City State University has always stood the task under great leadership and will continue its legacy of success in the future. Although many obstacles have come its way over time, she has always found a way to navigate through turbulent waterways. I am determined today to remind us of our mission in a capsule, in hopes that the vast majority will assist in the rich legacy of ECSU. I am reminded every time I engage in conversation with Dr. Glen Bowman, how important this place is and how much it has done for him and his family. The conversations with Mr. Ralph Cole and words of wisdom shared; yes I find myself reflecting on the vision of my predecessors and enthusiastically refuse to waver from the great things we continue striving to achieve:

- Clean financial audits (Mr. Ben Durant)
- National rankings
- State and National Accreditations (Dr. Flora Brown)
- High retention rates (Dr. Monette Dutch)
- Athletic championships (Coach Thurlis Little/Dr. Angelia Nelson)
- Capital improvements (Mr. Robert Gaines)
- Successful fundraising efforts (Mr. William Smith)
- Curriculum alignment (Dr. Ali Khan)
- Effective community engagement (Mrs. Althea Riddick)
- Data collection
- The University’s 125th Anniversary (Mrs. Janice Baker)
- The band & choir represented us well
- Graduate Program: from 25 students to 125 currently

Dr. Bass, we must continue this journey enthusiastically climbing steadily unwavering. Should we place more focus on growing our signature programs? We have and we will continue.

The UNC Pharmacy Partnership Program was started without a pipeline. In 2008, Dr. Ron Blackmon and ECSU staff started developing its first BS in Pharmaceutical Science Degree and today we have 95 students enrolled. In 2012, faculty began its work in upgrading the curriculum and as of today we have more students to select ECSU as their first choice than ever before to enter the Pharmacy Program; however, we still have room for growth. Thank you to Dr. Carla White for her dedicated work with this endeavor and the great leadership of Dr. Bass and Dr. Traore. Without wavering, the new facility will provide many new opportunities for faculty, students and citizens in Northeastern North Carolina. Faculty research space was designed, however, without all of the equipment needed to be effective. As the result of the Blue Ribbon Commission report, we have identified approximate $250,000 to properly outfit the facility to gain a more comprehensive usage for faculty research. Area AHEC and East Carolina University will become more engaged with ECSU as we expand opportunities to our students and the citizens of this region.
Dr. Sharp, Aviation Science is one of our signature programs……As I recall there were 19 students and 5 degrees offerings upon my arrival in 2006 and today we have 135 students and 7 degrees with a Masters of Aviation Science in waiting. We are now in the process of separating Aviation and Technology as a result of constant growth and innovation. We have, with the assistance from Ms. Gibbs and the Sponsored programs staff, acquired aircrafts –Viking 1 and Viking 2; additional flight training simulators, air traffic control equipment and with the assistance of Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Rawat, we are now embarking upon unmarked Aircraft (DROWSNS).

ECSU is viable and moving full steam ahead. As we move forward toward Student Affairs occupying Griffin Hall, it is our thought and hope that the Infirmary building will be expanded to house the many initiatives of Dr. Hayden’s area. Dr. Khan, as the leader here, we will Enthusiastically Climb Steadily Unwavering as it relates to the growth of this university.

I recently listened to the lyrics of one of the all-time greats, the late Whitney Houston. The song; I look to you . . . . as I listened, I was reminded that our students look to you (to us) for strength and guidance. They look to us to help them become great students and citizens. They look to us for help and sound advice. They look to you for encouragement. When all else has failed, they look to us. Let us commit to be there for them . . .

Lyrics: *I Look to You* by Whitney Houston

As I lay me down  
Heaven hear me now  
I'm lost without a cause  
After giving it my all  

Winter storms have come  
And darkened my sun  
After all that I've been through  
Who on earth can I turn to?  

I look to you, I look to you  
After all my strength is gone  
In you I can be strong  

I look to you, I look to you  
And when melodies are gone  
In you I hear a song, I look to you  

About to lose my breath  
There's no more fighting left  
Sinking to rise no more  
Searching for that open door
And every road that I've taken
Led to my regret
And I don't know if I'm gonna make it
Nothing to do but lift my head

I look to you I look to you
And when all my strength is gone
In you I can be strong

I look to you I look to you
And when melodies are gone
In you I hear a song, I look to you
My levees have broken, my walls have come
Crumbling down on me
The rain is falling, defeat is calling
I need you to set me free

Take me far away from the battle
I need you, shine on me

I look to you I look to you
After all my strength has gone
In you I can be strong
I look to you I look to you

And when melodies are gone
In you I hear a song, I look to you
I look to you I look to you.