



TO: North Carolina A&T State University Family
FROM: Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr.
DATE: October 5, 2009
RE: Issues Related to Student Homecoming Concert

“The Greatest Homecoming on Earth” is fast approaching and has brought with it a series of unintended consequences. Our student leaders and our administration, with the best of intentions, have made decisions that place the university in a position that is inconsistent with its values and principles. The headliners booked for our student concert have generated dissonance among our student leaders and our constituents. This dissonance has provoked internal discussion and policy reviews which are both necessary and welcomed and which will undoubtedly make us better as a university community.

While we have benefited from this internal review, we find ourselves with limited options. We must respect the rights of our partners; honor our legal obligations; while remaining steadfast to our principles. We have agreed with the promoter to remove the name of North Carolina A&T State University from the event. While this does not absolve us of our connection to the event, it allows us, within our limited options, to take a moral stand while we simultaneously honor our legal obligations.

N.C. A&T State University does not wish to assign blame but seeks to move forward in a constructive manner. We will work with all parties involved to make sure “The Greatest Homecoming on Earth” is successful and meaningful for students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters. Please be assured that we will benefit from this experience as we plan for the future.

We are committed to improving the oversight and control of these events in the future and creating a situation that protects the academic freedom and rights of our students.

We are in need of your understanding and patience as we manage through a very difficult set of circumstances.