



January 31, 2018

Dear CAES Alumni,

We're beginning another chapter. The start of each year is always an excellent occasion to evaluate the months just past as well as those ahead of us.

Last year brought about some notable changes. We restored our history by honoring those pioneers who helped make agriculture at N.C. A&T noteworthy, as we inducted two new honorees into the CAES Hall of Fame. We had more outreach to make inroads, through Cooperative Extension at A&T's interactive exhibit that combats childhood obesity. More faculty were lauded for their academic and research work, including researchers with newly patented work and an Extension specialists receiving honors for excellence in their field. Construction improvements were made to Carver Hall. We adopted a strategic plan to guide us in to 2023.

The year ahead promises to be even more productive. We are using our strategic direction, Destination Excellence <http://online.fliphtml5.com/nbdy/dhxi/> to chart our way to greater success. On the horizon this year: groundbreaking on a long-awaited pavilion at the University Farm and the start of community and student gardens there. The plans for the first doctoral program are in development. Hiring new faculty to fill departmental vacancies is also in the works. Our CAES students and faculty will also play host this year to the national Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), to be held April 4-7 at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons.

Much of this outreach and process is already underway. Even so, alumni still have vital parts to play in the ongoing success of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Each area outlined above needs the goodwill and professional resources of alumni.

We also need your financial support. All four of our academic departments have prioritized their needs, ones in which alumni can provide financial or in-kind support.

Mentoring and connections to internships were listed as key desires by the chairs in the departments of Animal Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), and Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agricultural Education (AAEAE). The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design (NRED) has a wish list that includes new furniture for the graduate-student room in Carver Hall, also supported by the AAEAE department.

The NRED list also includes support for \$2,000 to \$3,000 to support senior design-research projects. And FCS also has a similar request, an endowment or funding to support graduate students.

These are all issues that I endorse, and ones for which I'm working to find resources. Here's hoping the year ahead includes the CAES at the top of your gift list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shirley Hymon-Parker'.

Shirley Hymon-Parker, Ph.D.
Interim Dean and Research Director