



September 27, 2018

Dear CAES Alumni,

First, I want to share our concern for those of you affected by Florence and our best wishes for a speedy recovery. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

I hope you will mark your calendars for the annual CAES Homecoming cookout, 1-3 p.m. Friday, November 2, on the lawn of Webb Hall. Along with great food, friends and faculty, there will be an opportunity to meet the new dean of the College, who will be announced in the coming days. We look forward to seeing you!

The celebration will begin at 1 p.m. on November 2 with a brief Alumni Legacy Presentation in newly remodeled Webb Hall Auditorium about naming opportunities in the College. These opportunities, designed to fit a variety of budgets, will allow donors to make their names a permanent part of CAES infrastructure and North Carolina A&T State University. Those who attend a presentation will receive a priority pass for express food service once the picnic starts.

In this harvest season, I have good news to share about successes we have reaped.

[We recently broke ground on the first phase of \\$12.3 million worth of construction at the University Farm](#), signaling an expanded era of research, education, community engagement and agribusiness development.

Furthermore, every CAES academic department is working hard to build on our proud history and create an even brighter future.

- **Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education:** Associate Professor Chastity Warren English and agribusiness management major DeShawn Blanding were named to the Inclusion and Diversity Task Force of the National Association of Agricultural Educators and the National FFA Organization.
- **Department of Animal Sciences:** Associate Professor Radiah Minor received the UNC System's 2018 Excellence in Teaching Award for N.C. A&T. This fall, the department welcomed the largest freshman class in its history.
- **Department of Family and Consumer Sciences:** Professor Shengmin Sang received a \$2.8 million grant to identify biomarkers for whole grain wheat and oats. Fashion merchandising major Desiree Hedrick, who graduated in May, was presented the 2018 Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence.
- **Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design:** Professor Guochen Yang and research technician Zhongge Lu earned a second patent for their work cloning the popular landscape evergreen Alexandrian laurel.

Exciting things also are happening in Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T. [On Oct. 4, Extension will unveil Innovation Station](#), a mobile STEM lab and makerspace that will bring high-tech learning opportunities to students across the state. Please join us on campus for this event if you are able.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for your support of the college during my tenure as interim dean. On Oct. 1, I will return to my permanent post as associate dean for research. Thank you for your advice, your financial gifts and for your outreach efforts to help us recruit a new generation of talented students.

As alumni, you have been and continue to be the best ambassadors for N.C. A&T and for CAES. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Shirley Hyman-Parker
Interim Dean