



FALL CONVOCATION

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | 10 A.M.
RICHARD B. HARRISON AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM

FALL CONVOCATION

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 10 a.m.

Presiding: Harold L. Martin Sr., Ph.D. '74, '76, Chancellor

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL	UNIVERSITY BAND Thomas G. Warner Jr., Assistant Director of Band
WELCOME	HAROLD L. MARTIN SR., PH.D. '74, '76 Chancellor
MUSICAL SELECTION	LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING* University Choir Travis Alexander, Conductor
GREETINGS	KIMBERLY GATLING, J.D. '96 Chair, N.C. A&T Board of Trustees Chair, N.C. A&T Advisory Council on Alumni Relations JASMINE AMANIAMPONG President, N.C. A&T Student Government Association
MUSICAL SELECTION	UNIVERSITY CHOIR
RECOGNITION OF ATHLETES	JULIETH NWOSU President, N.C. A&T Student Athlete Advisory Committee
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	TONYA SMITH-JACKSON, PH.D. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
CONVOCATION ADDRESS	KELI CHRISTOPHER, PH.D. '98 Founder and CEO, STEM Greenhouse
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS	CRYSTAL W. BOYCE '07, '15 Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations
CLOSING REMARKS	CHANCELLOR MARTIN
MUSICAL SELECTION	ALMA MATER** University Choir
RECESSIONAL	UNIVERSITY BAND

* Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson and music by J. Rosamond Johnson

** Lyrics by Susan B. Dudley and music by Charles E. Stewart

SPEAKER

KELI CHRISTOPHER, PH.D. '98



KELI CHRISTOPHER is the founder and chief executive officer of the STEM Greenhouse, an organization she founded in 2014 to prepare children of color for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Greenhouse specializes in fun and hands-on STEM programs for students in grades K-12. Her organization currently serves over 600 youth in Grand Rapids, Michigan, through after school, in school and summer programming. In 2021, STEM Greenhouse was selected by Sony as one of 10 organizations in the nation to receive the Create Action grant, part of Sony's broader social justice efforts to support people in underserved communities by celebrating and amplifying the efforts of local, community-based nonprofit organizations.

Christopher graduated as valedictorian from Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids and was accepted into the Agricultural Engineering program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1994. After graduating from N.C. A&T, she pursued her master's and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She became the first Black person to receive a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois. Christopher has worked as an engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kent County Conservation District.

She has served as the National President of Alpha Epsilon Honor Society for Agricultural Engineers and currently serves on the board of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Christopher has also been recognized with a Brilliance Award in the Social Change Agent category from West Michigan Woman magazine (2020), received the Malinda Sapp Legacy Award from the Grand Rapids Symphony (2021) and received the Nolan Groce Business Leadership Award from the Urban League of West Michigan (2023).

AWARD RECIPIENTS



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

KELI CHRISTOPHER, PH.D. '98

Founder and CEO, STEM
Greenhouse
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

TROY DAWSON '85, '87

Vice President of Government
Satellite Systems, Boeing
(Arlington, Virginia)



COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**PAMELA RICHARDSON WILKS,
PH.D. '97, '98**

Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs, Coppin
State University
(Baltimore, Maryland)



JOHN R. AND KATHY R. HAIRSTON COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

LORA CUBBAGE, J.D. '02

Judge, N.C. Superior Court
(Greensboro, North Carolina)



WILLIE A. DEESE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

BRIAN MOORE, CPA '07

Partner, BDO USA
(Raleigh, North Carolina)



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HENRY E. FRYE SR., J.D. '53

Former Chief Justice, N.C.
Supreme Court
(Greensboro, North Carolina)



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

LUCY BAILEY HARDISON '82, '86

Project Manager II, Panorama
Education
(Snellville, Georgia)



HONORS COLLEGE

ADERO PAIGE '05, '07

Deputy Director, Office of
Chief Engineer, Department
of Defense
(Northern Virginia)

THE UNIVERSITY



JOINT SCHOOL OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOENGINEERING

SMITH WOOSLEY, PH.D. '13

Senior Process Development
Engineer, Qorvo Inc.
(Greensboro, North Carolina)



DR. VELMA R. SPEIGHT YOUNG ALUMNUS/ALUMNA AWARD

LATOYA MICHELLE BYNUM '05

Director of Sales, PepsiCo
(Dallas, Texas)



JULIA S. BROOKS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

TONYA LADEEN POWELL '75

CEO, Peoples Funeral Home
(Whiteville, North Carolina)



HOWARD C. BARNHILL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

ARLENE MACLIN, PH.D. '67

President and CEO,
MacSmith STEM Enterprises
(Washington, District of
Columbia)

Established in 1891, under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a land-grant, doctoral research university. The Second Morrill Act expanded the nation's system of land-grant universities to include a historically Black institution in those states where segregation denied minorities access to the land-grant institutions established by the First Morrill Act (1862).

With its current enrollment of 13,885 students, N.C. A&T is the nation's largest historically Black university. A&T is classified as "high research" by the Carnegie Foundation and is a constituent member of the University of North Carolina System. A&T is known for its leadership in producing graduates in engineering, agriculture and other STEM fields.

Twelve presidents/chancellors have served the institution since its founding: Drs. John O. Crosby (1892-96), James B. Dudley (1896-1925), Ferdinand D. Bluford (1925-1955), Warmoth T. Gibbs (1956-1960), Samuel DeWitt Proctor (1960-64), Lewis C. Dowdy (1964-1980), Cleon Thompson Jr. (interim, 1980-81), Edward B. Fort (1981-1999), James C. Renick (1999-2006), Lloyd V. Hackley (interim, 2006-07), Stanley Battle (2007-09) and Harold L. Martin Sr. (2009-present).



UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair - Kimberly Gatling '96
Vice Chair - Lynn P. Wooten '88
Secretary - William Dudley '72
Calvin Brodie
Mark Copeland
Paul L. Jones '71
Gina Loften '90
Gregg Lowe
Joseph R. Parker Jr. '67
Hilda Pinnix-Ragland '77
George W. Ragsdale
Jini D. Thornton '91
Ex officio - Jasmine Amaniampong

CHANCELLOR'S CABINET

Chancellor - Harold L. Martin Sr., Ph.D. '74, '76
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs - Tonya Smith-Jackson, Ph.D., CPE
Chief of Staff - Erin Hill Hart, M.S.
Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance - Robert Pompey Jr., MBA '87
Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development - Eric Muth, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs - Melody C. Pierce, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement - Kenneth E. Sigmon Jr., MBA
Vice Chancellor for Information Technology/CIO - H. Thomas Jackson, MBA, M.S.
Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs, Risk and Compliance/General Counsel -
Melissa Holloway, J.D.
Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships - Timothy Minor, MPA (Interim)
Associate Vice Chancellor Human Resources/CHRO - Veronica Sills, Ed.D.
Director of Athletics - Earl M. Hilton III, J.D.

ACADEMIC DEANS

College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences - Shirley Hymon-Parker, Ph.D. (Interim)
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences - Frances Ward-Johnson, Ph.D. '86
Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics - Lisa Owens-Jackson, Ph.D. '90 (Interim)
College of Education - Paula Groves Price, Ph.D.
College of Engineering - Stephanie Luster-Teasley, Ph.D. '96 (Interim)
John R. and Kathy R. Hairston College of Health and Human Sciences -
Elimelda Moige Onger, Ph.D.
College of Science and Technology - Abdellah Ahmidouch, Ph.D.
Honors College - Margaret I. Kanipes, Ph.D. '90
Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering - Sherine O. Obare, Ph.D.
The Graduate College - Clay S. Gloster Jr., Ph.D. '85
Library Services - Vicki Coleman, MILS '84

UNIVERSITY AWARDS AND CONVOCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vicki Coleman, MILS '84, co-chair; Sherine Obare, Ph.D., co-chair; Jasmine Amaniampong;
Michael Brooks; Crystal W. Boyce '07, '15; Sandra M. Brown; Mikosha Gatson; Serelyn Green
'99, '21; Margaret I. Kanipes, Ph.D. '90; Sharon Mitchell; Dawn Forbes Murphy, Ed.D. '87, '94;
Melody C. Pierce, Ph.D.; Sarah R. Smith; Oliver M. Thomas, Ph.D. '06; Anita L. Wright '14, '21

A special thank you is extended to all who contributed to the success of this program.