



James E. Shepard, Founder



Dear NCCU Students,

It is with esteemed pleasure that I welcome you to the 2020-2021 academic year, which is sure to be filled with new opportunities that will nurture and guide you along your collegiate journey at NCCU.

We continue to acclimate ourselves to the changing realities that the coronavirus and its impacts have brought into our lives. However, please rest assured that our Eagle Promise and commitment that we have made to students remain the same – to ensure that you will continue to receive a top-notch education despite the current circumstances that COVID-19 has presented to our community and nation.

We are excited to enter this academic year celebrating 110 years of continuing the vision of our founder Dr. James E. Shepard, who was deeply committed to developing students of character through rigorous academic training and a commitment to public service – principles we still hold dear today.

We have long been accustomed to providing a quality education to all who seek it here. It is the Eagle way and part of our track record of supporting diversity and inclusion.

When you study at NCCU, your world stretches beyond campus into the vibrant and diverse city and region that we're part of – the City of Durham and the Triangle region. These areas have quickly become a global hub for IT, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare and entrepreneurship and hold much promise for each member of our community.

You are encouraged to "*Discover what's Central to you*" by volunteering your time to worthy causes and networking with the region's top creators and innovators. Open dialogue is essential in honing the skills and mindset you will need to address challenges in a rapidly-evolving world of globalization and innovation.

Furthermore, please take advantage of the many thought-provoking speakers, forums, public events and opportunities that occur on campus. Programs range from educational seminars and political discussions to courses and lectures designed to bring deeper understanding of our culture.

I am proud that you chose to be a member of a future-focused institution whose legacy of producing next-generation leaders continues to soar. Here's to yet another year of fulfilling The Eagle Promise!

In Truth and Service,

Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D.  
Chancellor