



Dear NCCU Students,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year! We are very excited that you have chosen North Carolina Central University to further your education over the next four years. This academic year is sure to be filled with new opportunities that will nurture and guide you along your collegiate journey at this esteemed institution.

At NCCU, we are inspired by 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.

It is an exciting time to study on the sloping hills and verdant green as we continue to expand with construction of a new School of Business, the opening of a new Student Center in fall 2021, and the unveiling of two new residential halls in 2020, and a third scheduled for fall 2021.

When you further your academic career 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 Research Triangle region. These areas have quickly become a global hub for information technology, 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, and I hope you are too, 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