

Michael Eure Show – Episode 51: North Carolina’s 5 HBCUs Through History

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure, and I’d like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Michael Eure Show. Today, we’re gonna be having a very interesting interactive discussion about the public historically black colleges in North Carolina. And right now, what I’m gonna ask everybody to do is briefly introduce themselves. And since I’ve said who I am, we’re gonna go to Jerry Greene, and then I, I’ll just call each person’s name. Just do a quick introduction. Jerry?

JERRY GREENE: My name is Jerry Greene. I’m a Cybersecurity student here at Wake Tech. I’ve also, I’m participating in virtual mixers alongside Michael Eure here.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Tarik?

LATIF TARIK: I am Doctor Latif Tarik, assistant professor of history at Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

EURE: Doctor Benson?

DONNA BENSON: Hello. I’m Doctor Donna Benson, a professor of history at Winston-Salem State. And in the past, I was the interim chancellor of North Carolina Central in 1992, and, in 1995, I was the interim chancellor at Fayetteville State. So, I’m very familiar with all of these wonderful, wonderful institutions, and I thank you for having me, and just welcome and greetings to all of our colleagues today.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Taber?

ROBERT TABER: Hello everyone. I’m Doctor Robert Taber. I’m an assistant professor at Fayetteville State. It’s great to be here today.

EURE: Doctor Smallwood?

ARWIN SMALLWOOD: Doctor Arwin Smallwood, chair of the Department of History and Political Science here at North Carolina A&T State University. I’m glad to be here.

EURE: Doctor Johnson?

CHARLES JOHNSON: Assistant professor of history and director of the Public History Program at North Carolina Central University and vice chair of the Faculty Senate at North Carolina Central University.

EURE: Well, we're going to do something a little bit different. And, Sarah, I, I just say take us to the side. I don't know if it's going to be two sides or one side. And we're gonna just briefly look at the websites for each school. And we're starting with Fayetteville State because it is the oldest school, in 1867, and we can go on to Elizabeth City. For the audience, we're gonna put all of these websites in the chat. And you can go back and get information and learn more about these schools. And Elizabeth City State University is from 1891, and they were founded just a few days before the school that follows them, which is North Carolina A&T State University, which was also founded in 1891. And they just opened, I think, an engineering building named after this man, who's the chancellor. Next, North Carolina, Winston-Salem State is the next, and Winston-Salem State was founded in 1892. If I get these dates wrong, y'all can correct me. And I'm just so excited to have a you wonderful people here. And last and not least, we're gonna do North Carolina Central University, and they were founded in 1910. So, they are the baby of the bunch.

And now we're gonna go back and start asking questions. And Jerry, we're gonna do them in order. They know. Fayetteville State is first, Elizabeth City State is second, then A&T, then Winston-Salem State and then North Carolina Central.

GREENE: All right. OK, this is gonna be pretty interesting because I went to school and graduated in Fayetteville, North Carolina. So, can you give us a brief history of the, about the founding of the university and some of the circumstances of that time in North Carolina?

TABER: For sure. One of the things that makes Fayetteville State at least somewhat unique is Fayetteville has a robust, active, politically involved free Black community, even in the years before the Civil War. We think about Hiram Revels, the first African American U.S. senator, was born in Fayetteville; Henry Evans Lewis Cleary, who fought alongside John Brown, you know, had Fayetteville ties. And so, the community was already involved in trying to put together a school. And then, when, when the Freedmans Bureau came in with a little bit of financial assistance, really they met up with Black citizens in Fayetteville to establish what was then known as

the Howard School in 1867. So that then, that school was ready to become the first, or one of the first, normal schools for teacher education in North Carolina in 1877.

EURE: Doctor Tarik?

TARIK: All right. So, Elizabeth City State University was founded in 1891. It was founded based on Bill 383, which was the Hugh Cale bill. The Hugh Cale bill actually brought about five universities in existence, and that's why we see some of the, the dates of the universities very close together. In looking at Hugh Cale as an individual, it's pretty much just like Doctor Taber just said about the individuals at Fayetteville State. They were definitely, they are, Hugh Cale himself was actually part of the, I would say, the North Carolina legislature, and that's where he began to advocate for normal schools in North Carolina. But he also was the president of Wesleyan Institute, which ended up becoming, I believe, it was Shaw University, no, Livingstone College at the time.

One of the challenges that they had would be Plessy versus Ferguson and going past that. Beginning to establish these independent black schools was how the bill itself would come about. Elizabeth City State Normal School had a principal by the name of P.W. Moore. P.W. Moore was the very first principle of the school, and we actually have the actual school on our campus now that we are turning into a museum.

EURE: Doctor Smallwood?

SMALLWOOD: So, North Carolina A&T, again, was founded by the Second Morrill Act, which was the, in 1890. And the purpose was to, of course, create land-grant colleges in the South. And so, A&T was one of the schools that was created here in North Carolina. Again, originally, it was a part of Shaw University in Raleigh. We know that Shaw is a private school, and we're only talking about the state institutions today. And then, of course, it was moved. There was a, intense interest in a number of places, including Durham, to attract North Carolina A&T, and the, but the community here in Greensboro really pooled their resources together, and the community used to be called Warnersville, but it was one of the urban renewal communities that were destroyed. But the people of Warnersville basically pulled their resources together to purchase the land, to bring the, the university here to Greensboro. And so, it's, again, a university that focuses on agricultural and, at the time, mechanical, the, the mechanical arts. And, of course, now, it was founded with all of the disciplines, including history and English, but the liberal arts, as well as agricultural and mechanical. So, again, today, we are the largest HBCU in the nation.

We have well over, or slightly over, 12,000 students. We have graduate programs, MBA programs and Ph.D. programs. And so, yeah, that's the, the general gist of our school. And, again, it was one of a number of HBCUs that were land-grant schools that were established after that act in 1890, and our school was in established in 1891.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Benson.

BENSON: Good afternoon. And this is all so interesting, and we'll be able to use all of this information in our classes. Winston-Salem State started, we actually competed with A&T for that land grant, but A&T won. They had, the citizens of Greensboro had raised a lot more money. So, Simon Green Atkins, who was a good friend of Doctor Shepherd, Doctor Shepherd, he started the Slater Institute. It was a one-room school, had 25 students. And then, in 1925, Slater became Winston-Salem Teachers College. And a lot of people who grew up in North Carolina grew up calling Winston-Salem State TC. And I guess Elizabeth City was also called TC. But anyway, a teachers college. And then, of course, in 1972, the North Carolina General Assembly combined the historical five, these five historical Black institutions and historical white institutions to make one consolidated University of North Carolina System. So, there was a lot of protests because people did not understand what would happen to the board of trustees at these colleges as we came under the umbrella of the Board of Governors. But things have worked out relatively well. Not completely well, but relatively well. Thank you.

EURE: Thank you, Doctor Johnson.

JOHNSON: Thank you very much. So, North Carolina Central University was part of a very robust African American community here in Durham. And, I think, to, to appreciate its founding, you kinda have to understand a little bit about that context. Because, historically, the period in which we were founded in 1910 was a period that was very difficult for African Americans. But Durham was somewhat of a contradiction. We had had the establishment of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1898, Mechanics & Farmers Bank, well, Lincoln Hospital, excuse me, in 1901, Mechanics & Farmers Bank in 1907 and then North Carolina Central 1910. And leading the charge, like Doctor Smallwood pointed out, was a graduate of Shaw University, and that was Doctor James Edward Shepherd, who had earned a degree in pharmacy there in 1895 and had come to Durham and set up shop in Durham in a community, again, that was already on the move. And many people were coming to Durham during that period because of the tobacco industry and the opportunity for jobs. And unlike so many other areas in the South, Durham was a place where

African Americans were able to establish institutions to support our community, and those communities not only survived, but they, they ended up thriving.

So, North Carolina Central University came into existence as an institution really to train ministers. Shepherd had worked for the International Sunday School Association and could see the need for that. It's like all of the institutions – many, I should say, of our HBCUs – struggled starting out to raise funding. It's gone through several different iterations. Significant hurdles were, were cleared in 1915 when it went from being the National Religious Training School – initially the National Religious Training School and Chataqua, it changed in 1915 to the National Religious Training School. In '23, the state took it on, and we became a normal school: the Durham State Normal School. And, again, we've gone through a number of iterations. 1925, we become a liberal arts college, and in 1969, we become North Carolina Central University. So, a lot of changes, a lot that we could talk about during that time, but I know you want to, want to keep this, this relatively short.

EURE: Well, I was enjoying it. I was not gonna stop you because it was good. But I am also interested, I'm glad that we have these particular schools because of the fact that three of them did start off as private schools and became public. And so, I think it's kind of like talking about both in one setting. Now, I appreciate y'all referring back to Shaw and the fact that you were started as private schools.

So, I think Jerry has another question for you.

GREENE: Are we starting with Fayetteville State again? OK. What are, what are a few significant accomplishments of graduates and administrators of university, of your university?

TABER: I mean, we can't talk about Fayetteville State without talking about Ambassador E.E. Smith, who led the school; Charles Chestnut, one of the first prominent novelists. Fayetteville State alumni, many of whom continue to serve in our armed forces, really go all around the world. And so, you know, one of the great things about this new era of technology is we're also an online and adult education school, where over 43 percent of our students are over the age of 25. We have lots of online degree completion programs. So, what we see every day is our alumni joining federal agencies, starting up businesses and really tapping into that rich legacy established by our early students, who then turned into principals, who then turned into chief executives building up these institutions.

EURE: Doctor Tarik?

TARIK: All right. So, Elizabeth City State University has always really been a teachers college, teachers university. I think that's really part of the legacy that we have built upon since 1891. We do also have an aviation program. So, we have students that are involved in aviation management, that are training with drones, and it's really one of our most popular programs as well as the interdisciplinary program. Just like Fayetteville State, we have a large population that are now outside of Elizabeth City, that are in the surrounding counties because of the articulation agreements we have with the community colleges. So, that has really helped our enrollment and then broadened out the space of Elizabeth City beyond the boundaries that we're in. The mayor of Elizabeth City graduated from here. And Elizabeth City now, from the ROTC program, has just achieved their first general. So, I think those are some of the greater achievements that I can actually tell you about because I'm not native, native to here, and that's really what Doctor Bowman was gonna try and do is thing specifics of Elizabeth City. And I was gonna do more of the global, and I will tell you about the global a little later.

But I would say that we are the most far eastern HBCU in North Carolina and, unless you're gonna go to the university that's closer to us, which will be on the Virginia side, we serve a big gap in terms of education, not just for Black students now, but pretty much for the citizens of the state of North Carolina.

EURE: Yeah, and I do like the fact that you serve those rural counties in northeastern North Carolina. But before we get to Dr. Smallwood, I forgot to announced to the audience, if you have any questions or comments, please type them in your chat, and we will get to them in a little bit. So, thank you.

Now, Doctor Smallwood? I think you're muted.

SMALLWOOD: OK. Sorry. Well, can you all hear me?

GREENE: Yes.

SMALLWOOD: OK. So, for A&T, there's a whole host of individuals who are, you know, well-known alums of our university. And, of course, the one that I think that would jump out, you know, the furthest would be Jesse Jackson. And if you know about his movement and his run for the presidency, of the Democratic nomination for the presidency and the PUSH movement and all the things that he's been involved with, so certainly a national, international leader, well known, and all Aggies, of course, are familiar with him, and I think most people are as well.

The next one would be, and again, these are not in any order. There's so many outstanding graduates of A&T. But, but Henry Frye, who was the first African American chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. And so, I think, it's, you know, you must, you know, talk about him in the role that he played in, in shaping North Carolina. And then, the other, because I won't take much time, is Alma Adams, who's currently a representative in Congress, you know, that represents our, our district. So, she is a proud A&T alum.

But, but numerous alums. Regan, you know, Michael Regan, who has just been appointed to the EPA in the Biden administration, and on and on. So, a number of Aggies who are doing great things, you know, for North Carolinians as well As for the country.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Benson?

BENSON: Yes. There are quite a few Rams that we could talk about, but today, I just wanna talk about two, just in the interest of time. And the first Rams that I'd like to talk about would be the student-athletes that were prepared by Clarence "Big House" Gaines, Hall of Fame basketball coach. And, as many of you know, he, when he got to Winston-Salem State, he was the basketball coach, the football coach, the athletic director and just about everything else. And he went to New York and recruited Earl "The Pearl" Monroe to come down and play for the Rams in the early 1960s. And the key thing that we want to note there is Earl "The Pearl" Monroe was so fascinating, we had to move the basketball games from the campus to Lawrence Joel Coliseum and because, in defiance of segregation, Black and white fans wanted to see Earl "The Pearl" Monroe. And he, his senior year, he averaged 41 points. So, I, he got his foundation at Winston-Salem State before going on to the NBA. And last sat, Sunday, he, he was listed as one of the top 75 basketball players of all time.

Now, having said that, you might not realize that ESPN analyst Steven A. Smith is a graduate of Winston-Salem State. Of course, he's outspoken, and he was outspoken as a student. And so, after "Big House" benched him, he wrote an essay saying "Big House," it was time for him to retire. So, he's, he's always been opinionated and outspoken. But we all want to acknowledge, I can remember watching a professional football game and seeing an athlete from Elizabeth City. So, we all have these people in our repertoire.

And then, finally, I wanna talk a little bit about Lozelle DeLuz. She finished Winston-Salem State with a degree in elementary ed in the 1950s, and then she, she started

teaching. And then she became a principal. And then she went on and got her, her master's and a doctorate in education. But the key thing to know about her is that she and her husband made 132 loans. They had this big idea. They wanted to own a McDonald's franchise in Delaware, and before she retired, she owned three McDonald's franchises.

So, when we're talking about these students and these graduates, we have to also remember that we have transferable skills. You know, she basically used the methodology that she had learned as an education major to train her McDonald's staff in customer service. You know? And so, a lot of things that she learned at TC, she was able to transfer as she became interested in business. Thank you.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Johnson? You know you're muted?

JOHNSON: Can you all hear me?

TARIK: Yes, sir.

JOHNSON: OK, very good. You know, it's a slippery slope, this thing that you're asking, right? Because there's so many outstanding Eagles that we could talk about. What I'm gonna do is just run through a few, and I'm gonna start sort of with a, a shameless plug for the exhibit that Doctor Smallwood and I have created on the football rivalry between A&T and North Carolina Central that's now at the Museum of Greens, the Greensboro History Museum, the Museum of Durham History. And it covers the whole rivalry, and this year is the 100th year of that rivalry. So, I'm gonna start with Wilson Vashon Eagleson, who was the first African American, I mean, excuse me, the first head coach in that rivalry between the two schools. Eagleson was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and he married Frances Marshall Eagleson, who ended up being a registrar at North Carolina Central for many, many years. We named a dorm in honor of her, and they had a son named after the dad who became a Tuskegee Airman. Wilson Vashon Eagleson.

Then, you have Lewis Austin, who was the owner and editor of the Carolina Times, really, really important newspaper located in Durham. And he was someone who spoke on questions and issues of race, very articulate in that regard, very outspoken. Lewis Austin. And you, you can't talk about sports at North Carolina Central without talking about Herman Harry Riddick, the pride of Gates County, who was our winningest football coach, outstanding coach at all levels. Coached at Durham's Black high school, Hillside, went 82-5-3 as a high school coach. Won multiple CIAA titles and a national championship as a basketball coach.

You have Alexander Rivera, Alex Rivera, who was a founder of our news bureau at North Carolina College. Came in 1939, became an internationally recognized photographer, a photojournalist, covered sports and, and civil rights, and, and so many other things for us. You have Herman Ike Boone, the famous high school coach, If you remember “Remember the Titans.” Herman Boone is also, is also an Eagle.

You have Henry “Mickey” Michaux, former senator and the longest-serving state representative in North Carolina. Mickey Michaux is a, is a double Eagle, undergrad and law school. You have “Sleepy Sam” Jones, who won 10 NBA titles with the Boston Celtics as a shooting guard, is in the NBA Hall of Fame. You have “Big John” Baker, who was, becomes the first sheriff, African American sheriff in Wake County. But before that, he had been a standout football player at Ligon High School in Raleigh and then at North Carolina College and for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

You have the Honorable G.K. Butterfield, the congressman for the First Congressional District of North Carolina and former North Carolina Supreme Court justice. You have Ernie Barnes, the famous artist. For those people out there in podcast land, if you’ve ever seen the show “Good Times,” the artwork that’s associated with that was created by an Eagle. Ernest Barnes was also an outstanding football player for North Carolina College and a homeboy, as it were.

You have Larry Black, who was an Olympic gold medal winner from North Carolina College in the 1972 Olympics. He won gold in the in the 4x100 and the silver in the 200 meters. You have Jeannie Hopkins Lucas, who was the first African American woman state senator in North Carolina. Ivan Dixon, who was known for, those of us of a certain age will remember him as the African American actor in, on the television series, “Hogan’s Heroes.” And more recently, you have Christie Jones, who is currently the chief of staff for the Office of the Governor of the State of North Carolina. And then LeVelle Moton, our current head basketball coach, and all the, all he does is win.

And I would be remiss if I did not mention Doctor Donna Benson, who, even though she went to UNC-G, is actually a history maker herself. So, she has been very humble about that, but she is the first African American woman to lead one of these UNC System schools.

EURE: All right, thank you. And, and, and I’m not rushing you because you got good information. But Doctor Tarik wants to say something, and then we have a lot of questions from the audience that we’ve got to get to.

TARIK: I ...

EURE: Doctor Tarik?

TARIK: Yes, sir. I also think it's important for our students in the broader audience to know that, right now, that the CIAA is going on and that the CIAA was founded in 1912, with Shaw University being one of the founding, being one of the founding members. It's one of the oldest athletic, Black athletic conferences here in the country and obviously still continuing. But I think something that people really should also know – like I'm a, I'm a Tar Heel fan, right, so I'll come in with the personality of Michael Jordan when I was 10 years old, and I just turned 50 last Tuesday, so I'm happy about that, right – but what people really don't know is that as good as a coach that Dean Smith was, he attended a lot of Clarence "Big House" Gaines' games, and he learned the four-corners from Clarence "Big House" Gaines. Billy Packer, maybe about 10 years ago or so, actually said it on a broadcast, and people was actually shocked. And that really brought him back to the forefront. And it actually led people, it actually led people to what we call the "Ambassador of Black Basketball," John McLennan, who asked me, helped to mentor Clarence "Big House" Gaines and a lot of other coaches throughout the CIAA.

So, we look at Black college sports. Many of our heroes and superstars came from historically Black colleges and universities. A lot of people like to obviously call out Eddie Robinson, but, you know, we have coach Bobby [indecipherable], you know, who just passed away last year, you know. So, when you look at the CIAA, you're looking at a powerhouse conference, because imagine if all of these big sports teams, these players on these teams, were still in the CIAA today. We know how competitive that Division II basketball was before they created all Division I basketball conferences. Division II basketball was a place to watch for, you know, people like Ben Wallace and, and, and Rick Mahorn for Hampton Institute at the time. And there are so many others, A.J. English from Virginia Union. We know that these are the players that the basketball community, the scouts, came out to see.

EURE: OK. Thank you. Now, I do need to make an announcement for the audience that thinks this will end at 2:30 because it is 2:29. So, we are gonna go up to 2:50 just like any other class, and I'm glad all the panelists agreed to stay. So, we were gonna do a little piece, but we don't have time to do any entertainment right now. We're gonna go right to the questions from the audience.

Doctor Chris Roddenberry, do you want to, and he's a psychology professor here at Wake Tech. Do you want to read that one, Jerry?

GREENE: Yeah. Chris Roddenberry says, "Were African, were African American students allowed in colleges before Plessy versus Ferguson?"

EURE: And anybody can answer that.

SMALLWOOD: Well, it, well, I'll start by saying, if he means specifically in the South, then, you know, that's gonna be, you, you get a different answer if you're talking specifically about the South. But if you're talking about schools outside of the South, then that answer, you know, might be different. So, it depends. He has to kind of qualify the question. But yeah, it depends on where you are because there are some predominantly white universities in the Midwest and in the Northeast that did allow African American students to attend.

JOHNSON: I, I think how I would address that real quick is just simply to say that it was, we wanted education, and it was a real challenge for us to be educated. Right? And that's why forums like this are so important when we can discuss the founding of the HBCUs, because that's what called these institutions into existence. And while I'm on that, I wanna flip that and say that HBCUs, even though we carried that designation, have always accepted anyone who wanted to go to those schools. So, we have never had a policy that excluded anyone from attending.

EURE: Thank you. And [indecipherable], I'm not sure I got the right.

GREENE: So, she says. "What is an advantage of attending an HBCU?"

BENSON: This is Doctor Benson. I have a slide on that, and the other thing you want to remember is that there were two HBCUs that were founded before the Civil War. So, they were not in the South, but then, so, and then all of these, these institutions, basically three of them predate Plessy. So, there's been a, a large push for African American education for a long, long time.

But I'm gonna share a couple of things about the value of the HBCUs, and I'm gonna ask my colleagues to help me with this because, let's see here if I can find it.

EURE: Are you getting ready to share your screen?

BENSON: Yeah.

EURE: OK.

BENSON: OK. Can you see that?

EURE: Yes.

BENSON: OK, great. And I wanna just basically talk about the fact of the value of an HBCU and, especially with regard to research, and one of the things that you want to remember is that these faculty, students, alumni and partners are grounded in certain research methodologies. One is community-based research, so we have lots of faculty members and students who are going out the basically addressing, you know, issues. We have a, a mobile unit from the nursing program at Winston-Salem State that goes out into the community and helps people with, now mental health as well, various health – so, community-based research.

The other thing is that, if you look at a profile, we're also doing health disparities research, health disparities research. Another thing is that we're looking at research that focuses on effective teaching and learning for diverse populations. And so, go back to TC, go back to Fayetteville State, go back to Winston-Salem State or North Carolina A&T and Central, and the production of teachers and principals and college presidents for the public schools.

And the other thing we want to do is that we want to acknowledge the fact that these schools have research that focuses on creative expression and the fine arts, including, just think about these wonderful choirs. Charles Gilchrist at North Carolina Central, the marching band, the jazz ensembles or the Hip-hop Summit and outstanding theater festivals. And another thing we want to see and is evolving is, the evolving interest in business and entrepreneur research and then leadership and social justice research.

So, I don't know what the doctoral students at North Carolina A&T are doing in the, in the field of engineering. So, I guess we probably couldn't, could add nanotechnology and some of the, the technology and engineering research as well.

But this is just a picture of, of "Big House" Gaines, and, of course, he was quite knowledgeable. He, he finished Morgan with a degree in in chemistry. Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and Stephen A. Smith, who's on the TV now. This is Doctor DeLuz. She spoke in 2005 when we opened up Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Thurgood Marshall Plan,

Foundation – not the plantation! And so, then finally, somebody mentioned, Doctor Johnson mentioned Alex Rivera, and he took this picture. This is the 1992 CIAA tournament in Richmond. And when we went there, Doug Wilder was the governor of Virginia, so he invited everybody over to the Governor's Mansion. And so, we had a wonderful time there. But this is when I was the interim chancellor of North Carolina Central University. And you ought to remember that Central and A&T used to both be in the CIAA.

So, again, you know, this is the value. You know, it's different types of research, you know, so you basically would not necessarily have the same number of highly trained faculty members doing this community-based, social justice, health care disparity research that we have going on at these HBCUs. Thank you.

EURE: I'd like to say congratulations for putting on that. I love it, and for the students that are doing this for class, you wouldn't have gotten a better lecture series with these scholars. It's full of information. It will be on YouTube so that we can use it later and share. But I know other people have responses. I just wanna let you know we do have a lot more questions in the chat. But I'm gonna let you go ahead and respond, but please be brief. But I'm gonna let you respond, whoever wants to.

SMALLWOOD: Well, well, I, I have to add this part because for, in terms of students' questions, if you look at North Carolina A&T, we said it's the largest HBCU in the country. But in the UNC System, of the 17 campuses in the UNC System, in terms of research dollars that are generated in the millions, we're Number 3. The only two institutions ahead of us are Chapel Hill and N.C. State. If you talk about the productivity of our graduates, it must be stated, just this year, we went down to Number 2, but our graduates were Number 1 in terms of salaries, highest-paid graduates of the UNC System. So, it's important to understand that you have that opportunity to network, you know, with alums, then with other students who are like-minded, and you get a great education and get the opportunity, as Doctor Benson has so eloquently laid out, to do research and work with faculty members and do things that you may not be able to get, be able to do at other institutions.

EURE: I'm not cutting anybody off. If anybody else wants to add, please do so.

JOHNSON: Well, I would say that, you know, North Carolina Central University has a long tradition of producing outstanding graduates, and, and that hasn't changed today at all. And another element that I think rings true for all of these institutions is that, for young people, you're coming into a family environment, and you're coming to a place where people really want to see you succeed. And I really mean that.

They're committed to your success. So, you will not come in and be like a number or something like that. You know? It is, I'm gonna borrow a statement from another institution. They say, you know, at this institution, everybody's someone, and, and I think that this rings true for the HBCU experience. And I would encourage you to get out and to visit the institutions so that you can get a feel for what they're like. Each one has its own heartbeat, its own pulse, and the way to really experience that and to, to, to appreciate it is to get out there and experience that. But absolutely, I think we have questions coming up, but we can talk about all that we have to offer in Durham. And we'd love to have you.

EURE: Thank you, Doctor Johnson, And as a staff person at Wake Tech, we, we do have people intentionally directing students to all the great opportunities that exist at the HBCUs. We have articulation agreements with all of you, but, you know, with the UNC System, but we have specific articulation agreements with A&T, Winston-Salem, Even Elizabeth City, we just did one with your aviation program. And Doctor Johnson, you know, we do with your criminal justice, and with Fayetteville State, it's several. So, I don't think students really understand. And I'm gonna be nice to Elizabeth City and say their tuition is only \$500 [indecipherable].

So, we, we're ready for some more questions. All right. Chris, Doctor Chris O'Riordan-Adjah, he is the head of Wake Tech's Associate of Engineering program. All right, go ahead, Jerry.

GREENE: All right. Doctor Chris says, "Great cast. Great information, rich history of HBCUs. Are there any articulation agreements among all of your schools? If so, what programs, and how do they, how do you all support each other, if any?"

TARIK: Well, I cannot state specifically all the articulation agreements, but I will say it is a point of emphasis from the chancellor as well as our deans for the programs to create as many articulation of agreements as possible. I do know that we're near Tidewater Community College, in Portsmouth, Virginia, which has several campuses within the Hampton Roads area. And we get a lot of students who transfer from the Hampton Roads area and to Elizabeth City State University, as well as other schools as well.

We certainly, as a university, we don't have a very large graduate program. So, we are always looking to create these various pipelines to other HBCUs. So far, North Carolina Central has probably been our most active pipeline of students leaving here and going there and continuing their degree in history, particularly those who have special interest and public history. So, I teach the public history courses

here, and public history courses are so specialized that they're, they're, they're really hard to find in terms of a degree program, and North Carolina Central offers our students that, along with their law school.

JOHNSON: And I'll just say very quickly, [indecipherable] Willis, who is a prime example of that. She's gone from Elizabeth City, through our program and is now at the University of Houston working on a Ph.D. and doing quite well. So, that's an example of that. Excellent, Doctor Latif Tarik.

EURE: Does anybody else?

TABER: I'll say briefly that Fayetteville State has several articulation agreements with Wake, specifically, and that we also have an online degree completion program in history. You know, we have a good number of students, and about half of our history students are currently in that online degree completion program.

BENSON: And ...

TABER: And we're gonna become an NC Promise school starting in the fall.

BENSON: Oh, OK. And this is Doctor Benson. We have had vibrant articulation agreements with many of the community colleges, especially in regards to nursing. And so, you can start, do a joint program now with Winston-Salem State's nursing program. The passing rate is 96 percent, I just wanted to add, but, at any rate, with Winston-Salem State's nursing program. And so, a lot of them need to be updated, but we are in the process now updating just the studies. Doctor Denise Nation, and we, again, with this social justice research, the faculty at Winston-Salem State have helped two men who were incarcerated get exonerated and freed. And the most recent was Doctor Nation and Doctor Jack [indecipherable] helped Ronnie Long get out of jail. He had been in there 44 years for a wrongful conviction. So, the types of research questions that we answer are very, very important.

But yes, we love articulation agreements, and we want to make the, the transition as seamless as possible.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Smallwood? No?

SMALLWOOD: Well, just to add, you, you already mentioned the ones we have with Wake, but, certainly, any community college students are, are, can transfer, you know, with a year associate degree into, or even before that, they can transfer into

A&T, all of our campuses. So, we, we have a natural association with community colleges, and so, but, yes, we do have a number, and I can't name all of the agreements that we have. And we do try to support our, you know, not just HBCUs, but we try to send students on for Ph.D.s as well. I think Doctor Johnson knows we've been sending a number of students to, to Central as well in history, and we've done a number of projects together. But, certainly, there are a number of agreements that exist for engineering and for the other programs. There are none specifically for history, but we certainly will take transfer students from two-year institutions here in our department.

JOHNSON: I know that North Carolina Central is actively seeking to create these types of ties, and what I will comment on, and then there might be another question, is that the students that I have had the privilege of, of teaching that have come out of our community college system have done, have done extremely well. So, I think that should be encouraging for anyone who's out there listening.

EURE: All right. And before we get to an audience question, we're gonna ask one that we have. And for the audience and for you, you can go back and get these answers, and if you don't get your answer, you're gonna be able to contact these people and get an answer because we're gonna give up some contact information.

All right, Jerry, what's the next question?

GREENE: "What is the current focus of your university in relation to program offerings and interfacing with the community?"

TABER: I, I'll go briefly, and then I do have to head out, and I apologize for heading out. But a lot of it is, you know, just helping these part-way-home students, folks who maybe started school a while back and still need to finish their degree, helping folks get the rest of the way home, finishing it up in four years, being able to move forward in their careers. We really are playing, facing a greater emphasis on online education, on adult education and on military-affiliated, both people who are currently active-duty but also their family members and veterans as well, with these scholarships that we just announced for military-affiliated students, giving back to the community in that way.

TARIK: I'm gonna answer this. I think one of the things that Elizabeth City State University is doing very well in the four years that I've been here, and that is them being able to really upgrade the infrastructure of the university. A lot of us looking at, a couple weeks ago, the C-SPAN subcommittee on HBCUs, we understand how a

lot of money don't always get to HBCUs. So, when students come visit, sometimes the campus may not look as appealing as other places. Now, when you come here, I mean, we have a lot of things being planned. We have a major road that actually intersects between our campus and some student residence halls, but we're gonna have an overpass that's being built. We have various new buildings that have been built on the campus, and we have a lot of room for that expansion.

Currently, I'm a part of the Social Justice Task Force that's just been formed, so we're beginning to do social justice research. And we want it to be a very student-led type organization. Student-led programming, where we direct the students in the way that we can go back and look at the way that Ella Baker did, right, allow the students to be able to determine the type of projects and programs and how they want to engage the community.

So, I think being, being facility-focused will really help us to bring the students in. Our library's been renovated. I mean, it's really beautiful. You have private, quiet space, green space, spaces to recharge because we all have all these electronic gadgets now. So, I think, in that way, that is really allowing the community to see that we're growing and that we want them to grow with us.

EURE: Thank you very much, and we're getting ready to end, audience, in about five minutes, so I'm gonna ask Doctor Smallwood and Doctor Benson and Doctor Johnson, I know that you have a lot to say, but if you could do a little bit, like 30 seconds to a minute, and then I want you to all just give your contact information. And we will be over, and we might have to bring you back and do part two. So, don't think that we won't do that.

OK, go ahead, Doctor Smallwood.

SMALLWOOD: OK. This, to be brief with [indecipherable], obviously we were a center for COVID vaccinations. We used our alumni center here on campus to vaccinate as many people in the community as would come and take advantage of that. Dean Goldie Byrd, who's an A&T alum and was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences here at A&T before going to Wake Forest, established an Alzheimer's Institute in which we're working with the Black community, which we're suffering from that disease, very engaged in the community to help caregivers and work with people. And then, of course, the beloved community center. If you know about, have ever heard of the Greensboro Massacre and the individuals that were killed here in Greensboro, well, that, that center works with them, and we have students that are engaged in helping to do community research and preserve community histories. So,

so, we, we stay engaged in our community. We care very much about Greensboro and the Greensboro community. And, and just be, I'm being long, but we are essential to the community. The community loves A&T because we employ people, whether they're working in the cafeteria or keeping the grounds, and they, we see them as Aggies, too. So, we have, you know, a community in which people, we, we care about the people in our community.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Benson?

BENSON: Yes, I just can't stress enough the importance of graduate training as nurse practitioners, the nursing researchers, allied health and occupational doctoral students nationally recognized. And, of course, that social justice. But things are, are going well, and we just want to continue to move forward.

There was a Pan Africanist, and I'll conclude with this, whose name was Amilcar Cabral, and he said, "Claim no easy victories." And we, basically, want to applaud the fact that these institutions have been alive and well, for the most part, for more than 100 years. I cannot think about Fort Bragg without thinking about Fayetteville State and how we have helped so many of those soldiers well before they get deployed to get degrees. And so, each one of these institutions is a flagship, and we applaud our partnerships with the private schools. You heard that a lot of our faculty members were educated at the historical black private schools, you know, Shaw, St. Aug's, Johnson C. Smith, Barber-Scotia and Bennett. You know, these have been collaborations along with us. Thank you for having us today.

EURE: Thank you. Doctor Johnson?

JOHNSON: So, at North Carolina Central, I'll, I'll, I'll take the course that Doctor Tarik did and say that you really have to see how much it has grown up just over the last few years. The infrastructure development there is awesome. The dorms are just awesome. Classroom upgrades all over the campus. It's, it is amazing how much the institution has changed, so much to offer in so many different programs, whether you're talking about sciences and our history program, which is routinely top five in the country for producing African American graduates. And I would say probably top five for producing those who go on to produce, to get their Ph.D. history also. So many programs we could talk about, I know we're pretty much out of time now.

EURE: Right.

JOHNSON: But thank you so much, Michael, and let's do a part two.

EURE: We're gonna do a part two, and I. we're going to go back [indecipherable], and Doctor Johnson, you can talk about that.

JOHNSON: How about that?

EURE: So, give your name and contact information for anybody who wants to get in touch. It's Doctor Johnson, North Carolina Central. Doctor Benson, your contact information? There you go. Donna J. Benson, Winston-Salem State. All right, Doctor Smallwood? Do you have? Here you go, Doctor Arvin Smallwood, A&T, North Carolina A&T. Elizabeth City, Doctor Tarik, your contact information? There we go. Doctor Latif Tarik, Elizabeth City State University. And Doctor Taber? You started first, but you ended last. OK, Doctor Robert Taber, Fayetteville State University.

I thank all of you, and I don't want you to think that we won't be working with our History Department. And many of you know our History Department Chair Doctor Malone, and we're gonna see if we can get each of you to come to classes because each of you could do a whole class. You could do a whole week of classes. So, we really appreciate everybody coming, and we hate to say goodbye so very suddenly, but we have to. So, please, say goodbye, everybody. Thank you.