NC STATE  Academic and Student Affairs

CONNECTIONS

2015 - 2016 Year in Review
A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR AND DEAN

The Division of Academic and Student Affairs is dedicated to the success of our students.

Our tagline, “We Promote the Success of the Whole Student,” is a reflection of the fact that our students are, for the most part, on campus and involved in myriad ways 24/7. Success is more than a retention rate (the percentage of freshmen returning for the fall of their sophomore year) or a six-year graduation rate. Those metrics are important, but do not adequately describe what is most important—the engagement of the student on our campus, and the activities and programs they participate in, that enrich their experience here.

In this issue of CONNECTIONS you will find many examples of what student success looks like at NC State. We are working to improve access and close achievement gaps for students from varying backgrounds. A story on our Living and Learning Village program highlights the value of engaging in academic interests in our residence halls. We also highlight how students in our Honors and Scholars programs are engaged in deep learning across their academic life here at State. And of course, we provide exceptional opportunities for students to engage in the arts on our campus, through Arts NC State.

We also know that students who take care of themselves, who pay attention to exercise, diet, sleep, and refrain from excessive alcohol and drug use are much more successful as students, and in life. In this issue, we provide highlights of the many campus-wide wellness programs that we provide to enhance the quality of life for our students and their success at NC State.

One significant change related to student success in the past year was the launch of our University College. This unit brings all of the various academic support programs from across the division into a single administrative unit. It brings Exploratory Studies, tutoring, transition advising, Undergraduate Research, Honors and Scholars, our Music and Health and Exercise Studies departments, ROTC units and 12 minors and our Global Perspectives Certificate all under the same umbrella. In essence, this provides a one-stop shop for academic success.

Success as a student translates into success after graduation. When our students leave, they are entering a global workforce—a workforce made up of people from all walks of life. To that end, we also provide our students with opportunities to learn about differences in people and to grow in ways that embrace diversity and inclusion in their lives. A synopsis of activities and programs that build on our values of diversity and inclusion is included in this issue.

I hope you enjoy this overview of these and many other programs and accomplishments that the dedicated staff and faculty of the Division of Academic and Student Affairs have provided this past year. Keep in mind that this is a snapshot of a far larger effort. We invite you to visit our website at dasa.ncsu.edu for more information. And, if you are as passionate about student success as we are, please consider giving to one of our programs or the Student Success Fund, which directly supports many of the programs that provide opportunities for all students at NC State.

With Pack Pride,

Dr. Mike Mullen, Vice Chancellor and Dean
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Rich Holly, Executive Director for Arts NC State, says he can’t count the number of times he and his staff have heard from students who genuinely feel like their Arts NC State experience saved their lives.

Take, for instance, the graduate from the Poole College of Management who found her classes at the Crafts Center just as instrumental as her classes in the business world. Or the alum, now a high ranking official at a major bank, who swears theatre made him who he is even though finance is the path he followed. These students were not artists in the traditional sense—they had not studied ballet since age four or dreamed of a career in ceramics—but they shared an enthusiasm for the arts just the same. Their stories are exactly why Arts NC State exists—to provide a quality arts experience not only for professionals but also for those purely curious; in other words, for everyone.

Six major units within Arts NC State—the Crafts Center, the Dance Program, the Gregg Museum of Art & Design, the Music Department, a performing artist series called NC State LIVE, and University Theatre—carry out this mission, setting the stage for student success. “Exposure to the arts provides valuable skills and life lessons for any career,” emphasizes Holly. “It creates a deeper humanity and expands brain power.”

Interestingly enough, one of the main reasons Arts NC State is able to impact as many students as it does is because of what it doesn’t do—it doesn’t offer a major in the arts. Even though there is no required curriculum, a really deep training in the arts can be had, if desired. The Music Department, which offers the most academic credit of any of the arts offerings, has over 90 courses featuring everything from performing ensembles to music history to music and technology. It also offers four minors in addition to an arts entrepreneurship minor for those who want to build their interest into a career. Courses in dance and theatre are also offered as a minor in theatre.

“Not having majors allows us to provide opportunities to as many students as possible,” explains Holly. “If the number of faculty and staff we currently have in the arts served only majors, we would be serving around 600 students a year. By not offering a major, we are able to serve between 5,000 to 6,000 students a year.”

Whether it’s an audition for a choral or instrumental ensemble within the Music Department, an audition for the Dance Program’s NCSU Dance Company (modern dance) or the Panoramic Dance Project (dances from around the world), or an audition for one of the five shows produced annually by University Theatre, every single experience is open to every single student on campus. It’s basically...
Top: University Theatre students rehearse for a performance.

Bottom (L to R): NC State Marching Band prepare for a performance in the Raleigh Christmas Parade.

NCSU Dance Company member prepares for Had Not That Accident Befallen Her. Photo by Jillian Clark.
a year-round 24-7 casting call for the entire student body. And, the immersive arts opportunities don’t stop there. Faculty members often interweave their curriculum with the Gregg Museum of Art & Design’s wide-ranging collection of close to 40,000 items. NC State LIVE brings in professional artists who desire to both perform and provide workshops on campus. The Crafts Center offers workshops too, as well as classes, in such visual arts as woodworking, pottery, fiber arts, lapidary, and more.

The mission of Arts NC State also extends beyond campus. Half of the Crafts Center attendees are students, the other half are members from the surrounding community. Many of the center’s staff are also community members. Several music ensembles invite community members to audition, and the Outreach Office, which serves all of the arts units within Arts NC State, collaborates with such local venues as high schools and rotary clubs to bring in applied theater productions that educate audiences on important issues.

It’s fitting that Holly describes the Gregg Museum of Art & Design as an interactive environment that is not really a “stand behind the ropes and do not touch” kind of place because that description also perfectly sums up Arts NC State. All of its programming is essentially a powerful hands-on exploration of the arts. From being able to have a class discussion about royal Japanese textiles while actually viewing them up close in the Gregg Museum of Art & Design, to being fitted into a harness before dancing vertically up a wall during an aerial dance workshop, to receiving a coveted invite to perform at a gala during the American College Dance Association conference, students are getting in touch with the arts in a variety of creative ways.

“The looks on their faces during these kinds of experiences are priceless,” says Holly. “It’s such a thrill that they can’t get anywhere else, really.”

A perfect example of this kind of thrill occurred one day when Holly was leaving a meeting at the Crafts Center. Two students walked in, he explains, their backpacks stuffed and “their eyes as wide as a character from a cartoon.” Turns out, they were freshmen who had just found out about the center and had rushed over to check it out. They couldn’t believe that not only did such a facility exist, but that it existed for them. For everybody.

With such an incredible arts lineup for both students and the surrounding community, one could say that Arts NC State raises the bar on raising the curtain. Or that it gives an entirely new meaning to student performance. But, more than anything, it gives everybody the chance to take a bow, and that kind of programming innovation deserves nothing less than a standing ovation.

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Rich Holly, Executive Director for Arts NC State
CHALLENGING THOUGHT

Exploring critical issues affecting diverse populations

When NC State students arrive on campus, they know they can count on receiving an exceptional educational experience that will prepare them for the future. Whether they’re heading out into the work world or are pursuing advanced study, they’ll gain the knowledge necessary to be successful. But many of their most crucial experiences—those that elicit empathy and understanding, and personal growth—won’t occur in a research lab or lecture hall.

Exposure to new people, places, activities and ideas are all part of the transformative process through which students explore their interests and passions and begin to chart a path that will bring them both personal and professional fulfillment. The Division of Academic and Student Affairs provides opportunities to fully engage students in the university, promoting experiences that encourage students to challenge themselves as innovative thinkers.

For some time now, issues related to racial diversity have been at the forefront of conversations across the country. The division shares in NC State’s commitment to providing an inclusive environment that is welcoming for all, and we continue to work to create opportunities for the campus community to come together to discuss concerns related to diversity issues. During the course of the 2015-16 academic year, a series of events centered around the current racial climate has engaged students, faculty, and staff in meaningful conversations, offering a safe space to explore the critical issues affecting diverse populations.

Our students are representative of wonderfully unique backgrounds and experiences, and we encourage them to share their perspectives, to gain knowledge and acceptance of perceived differences. In January 2016, Student Government hosted a Town Hall on Racial Climate to provide a platform for students to discuss their experiences and brainstorm actionable ideas for promoting inclusion and understanding on campus. The event was widely attended, with more than 200 individuals from across campus participating.

Recognizing that those individuals who have direct interactions with students play an integral role in positively impacting the campus culture, the division also provided opportunities for diversity training directed towards faculty and staff. Administrators are poised to help students navigate conversations about race relations in a manner that is respectful and supportive.

Initiatives in 2015-16 included:

- Screening of the documentary *White People*, produced by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, during the spring 2016 Diversity Dialogue.
- Presentation of *Racial Climate on Campus: A Rapid Response and Training Staff to Respond to Racial Climate Challenges* webinars, both led by Dr. Jamie Washington, president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group.
- *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training for Faculty and Staff* webinar, facilitated by Dr. Kathy Obear of the Social Justice Training Institute.
- *Islamophobia on Campus* webinar examining micro-aggressions and hate crimes on college campuses.
- #PACKTALKS brainstorming session to discuss ideas for encouraging authentic conversations about race on campus.
DIVERSITY NEWS

Diversity, in all forms, takes center stage at NC State

Student Media co-hosts Byron Pitts for 2016 MLK Day

NC State Student Media partnered with the African American Cultural Center and others to host ABC “Nightline” co-anchor Byron Pitts on campus Monday, January 11. Pitts, a former correspondent for “60 Minutes” who has earned multiple national Emmy Awards for his work, visited NC State as part of the university’s 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Alternative Service Break trips shine light on social justice issues

The Center for Student Leadership, Ethics and Public Service (CSLEPS) sponsored 21 Alternative Service Break (ASB) trips over the past year focused on exposing students to diverse social justice issues. The trips also served to help students identify their privileges and begin using the acquired knowledge and tools to begin breaking down systems afforded to those with unearned privilege in our society. In partnership with the Office of International Services, CSLEPS also sponsored the 14th Annual ASB trip during fall break that paired international and domestic students in a weekend of service in Washington, D.C. to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Dear Wolfpack program highlights -isms on campus

Fraternity and Sorority Life, all four greek councils and the Order of Omega collaborated to host Dear Wolfpack, an inaugural program that was held during the Union Activities Board’s Diversity Education Week: Revisited. The program highlighted different -isms that plague NC State’s campus. Dear Wolfpack addressed the experiences of the many different diverse groups on campus. Speakers, performers and video messages spotlighted oppression, homophobia, lookism, sexism, xenophobia and racism. Dear Wolfpack was funded through a LEAD Award from Student Involvement for Outstanding Collaborative Program.

Global Perspectives Certificate seeks more international students

Beginning in Fall 2016, non-native English speakers can count English for their language requirement. This measure will help the Global Perspectives Certificate Program to expand recruitment efforts among international students and increase diversity in the program.

Black Male Initiative hosts Love of Education Academy

In February, the Black Male Initiative (BMI) collaborated with the Omar Simpson Foundation to host the Love of Education Academy. The Omar Simpson Foundation is a global education-based non-profit for young people and families experiencing challenging circumstances. The weekend academy was designed for high school and community college black males who have an interest in attending NC State. Presentations were given to teach the students about black males in higher education and to instill a sense of empowerment in the students.
Diversity Education Week: Revisited

The Union Activities Board (UAB) Diversity Activities Board hosted a follow-up to Diversity Education Week in October by creating a student focused, 25-event Diversity Education Week: Revisited week in March. Issues of mental health awareness, transphobia, gender roles, and the Model Minority Myth among Asian Americans were discussed.

Native Space launches in Wood Hall

In partnership with Multicultural Student Affairs, University Housing will pilot a village named Native Space, beginning in fall 2016 in Wood Hall. Eight students will be inaugural members participating in activities which support their student success and bonding as native students.

Counseling Center launches two new groups

The NC State Counseling Center added two groups to target individuals who identify as people of color. The Women of Color and Men of Color groups were developed to help serve those students of historically marginalized populations. In addition, the multicultural groups added in the 2014-15 academic year, Transcending and Connecting and International Student Success Group, were able to sustain themselves into this academic year, demonstrating that identity-based group offerings are relevant to our student community.

Panoramic Dance Project exposes students to wide array of dance styles

The Panoramic Dance Project is the Dance Program’s student dance company dedicated to exploring a diverse range of dance styles, including modern, jazz, hip-hop, African, Bhangra and Latin. New for 2015-16, the company members participated in the Pizzica Dances of Southern Italy master class, Belly Dance and a Bhangra master class. Panoramic Dance Project participants also participated in a social justice themed master class in collaboration with NC State LIVE titled Advocacy and Activism through the Arts. This piece, along with a session conducted by NC State’s National Coalition Building Institute inspired the students to choreograph Tension, performed in the Panoramic Dance Project Concert. Tension dealt with cultural and racial fears and biases in a creative and honest way.
Learning to balance the responsibilities of being a college student takes work, and managing stress can be tough for students.

The Division of Academic and Student Affairs is committed to helping our students achieve success, and we know that personal wellness plays a big role in overall success. The division is the home of many of the on-campus programs and services that are available to support the physical and mental health needs of students.

Counseling Center

On a campus of over 42,000, it’s hard to imagine feeling alone while surrounded by so many people. But with the pressure to succeed in the classroom, the uncertainty of being away from home, and the stress elicited by everyday life, students may find themselves feeling isolated, overwhelmed, and unsure of where to turn for help.

Counseling services are offered on an individual and group basis, for those struggling with substance abuse, and to provide academic and career counseling. Through counseling, students develop the positive coping skills they will need to support themselves and thrive during their time on campus, and in the future. It’s never easy to ask for help, but during 2015-16 more than 4,500 students sought support from the Counseling Center.

The Counseling Center collaborates closely with partners on campus, bringing crucial messaging to students across the university. The #StopTheStigma campaign invites students to share stories of resilience when faced with issues related to suicide. Campaign videos were viewed over 7,000 times. The Counseling Center has also increased efforts to reach students in need, regardless of their physical location. Counselors working within Centennial Campus, Athletics, and the College of Veterinary Medicine provided 2,073 appointments to students. In the wake of tragedies impacting the campus community, counselors also went directly to affected organizations, classes, and departments to provide “post-vention” debriefing sessions to 2,893 members of the campus community.

Student Health Services

Board certified physicians, licensed clinical professionals, specialty medical services, and an on-site pharmacy comprise Student Health Services (SHS), the top ranked student health center in North Carolina. During the 2015-16 academic year, SHS primary care and women’s health services completed a combined total of over 32,000 patient appointments.

This year, SHS expanded its public health and disease prevention initiatives and outreach efforts, bringing services to individuals on Centennial Campus and at the College of Veterinary Medicine. A partnership with Campus Smiles made NC State the first student health center in North Carolina to provide dental care to students, faculty, and staff. Thirteen flu clinics were held across campus, with a total of 3,500 flu vaccines and 54 flu mist treatments administered.

University Recreation

Finding a balance between work and play is important. Students are encouraged to stay active with University Recreation’s group fitness classes, team sports, and outdoor excursions. The classes, facilities, and intra-
mural teams are all designed to help students achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Over the past year, 29,965 individuals utilized University Recreation programs, services, and facilities, for a total of 1,001,438 visits.

University Recreation continues to be the largest student employer at NC State, employing 1,068 students in 2,269 positions during the past year. The 2015-16 academic year also marked the inauguration of the Moonlight Howl and Run, a signature event of Wolfpack Welcome Week. More than 4,000 students participated in the two-mile midnight fun run at the Belltower, later celebrating their success with snacks, games, and music on the Brickyard.

**Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Education**

Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Education completed its first year operating under a new name. Seeking to aid students in succeeding academically, professionally, and personally by reducing the negative results of substance misuse, the program provides outreach and education opportunities to students on campus. During the 2015-16 academic year, the Howl for Help initiative was among the program’s primary focal points. Howl for Help teaches students to spot the signs and symptoms of alcohol poisoning, and how to respond if faced with such an emergency. This year marked a 69% increase in the use of the service by students.

**Health & Exercise Studies**

The Department of Health and Exercise Studies (HES) supports the health, wellness, personal growth, and development of NC State students. During the 2015-16 academic year, over 600 classes and more than 13,500 seats were available. The department continues to focus its efforts upon creating new course offerings to better meet student interests. A new dance minor has been approved, with courses beginning in Fall 2016. Courses in pickleball and fitness kickboxing have also been added. This year also marked the first HES course offering at the NC State Prague Institute.

**Nutrition**

Maintaining a balanced diet and positive self image are essential components of physical and personal wellness. Campus Enterprises takes care to provide healthy dining options for all students, collaborating with campus partners to bring support and resources to the campus community. Working with NC State Dining, Nutrition provided a Food Allergy Support Group to support those students with dietary restrictions.

This year, two years ahead of schedule, NC State became the first institution to complete its commitment to Partnership for a Healthier America’s Healthier Campus Initiative. The university implemented 23 guidelines centered around nutrition, physical activity, and programming. Highlights included providing a Dietitian’s Dish wellness meal at breakfast, lunch, and dinner; offering healthier fare in food and beverage vending machines; and combating food insecurity on campus through the Feed the Pack Food Pantry.
The 2015-16 academic year has been one of significant growth for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs.

In addition to the welcome addition of new faces, many of the physical spaces that house the division’s programs and services have undergone renovations and expansions, resulting in areas that are not only visually impressive, but also promote improved efficiency.

Academic Support Programs for Student Athletes

The facility that is home to the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes (ASPSA) underwent a $165,000 remodel and update and is now better-equipped to support the unique needs of the student-athlete population.

Located in Case Academic Center, the space was retrofitted to include a smart classroom with a sound system and screen, as well as new computers and furniture for three computer labs. Existing space was revamped to support quiet study and tutoring sessions. What was previously unused space has greatly enabled ASPSA to increase the number of tutoring sessions that can be offered at one time. New televisions were also installed to display student/tutor assignments for the entire day, greatly improving efficiency and organization.

Additionally, all individual tutoring spaces were updated with new technology and furniture. Five large study rooms are equipped with mounted screens, allowing students and tutors to easily collaborate. Eight smaller study rooms also include screens and desktop computers for student use.

The remodel of the space has significantly impacted how ASPSA is able to reach and assist student-athletes. Katie Sheridan Graham, Assistant Dean and Director of ASPSA says, “Overall the project has changed almost every aspect of how we are able to support students on a day to day basis. We have increased the space available for students and created more efficient practices through the use of new technology.”

Career Development Center Sales Lab

A partnership with local State Farm agents resulted in $102,000.00 in donations to support the creation of a new sales lab, housed within NC State’s Career Development Center.

The funds were used to upgrade the multi-functional space, now equipped with high definition cameras, computers, software applications, and new interior furnishings. The new space will be an asset for both students and faculty. Faculty will be able to engage students in sales-based scenarios that prove difficult to replicate in a classroom setting, and
the lab will provide students with resources to improve their interview and conversational skills through mock interview sessions. The sales lab will also benefit State Farm agents as they coach students in preparation for events like the National Collegiate Sales Competition.

Carmichael Complex
For NC State students, University Recreation’s Carmichael Complex is the on-campus hub for personal wellness. In fact, during the last academic year, 71% of all undergraduate students participated in University Recreation programs and utilized services and facilities. A $45 million addition and renovation to Carmichael Complex is well underway and will provide a space that is even more welcoming and accessible for the nearly 30,000 students, faculty, and staff who utilized University Recreation services and facilities during 2015-16.

During the past academic year, a $7.6 million locker room and fitness expansion renovation project was completed. The renovation improved upon existing locker room space, resulting in modern, comfortable facilities with lockers for both single and daily use, as well as lounge areas with soft seating and flat screen televisions. The project also allowed for the expansion of the Wolfpack Strength and Conditioning Center, which now includes new functional training equipment and space, personal viewing/interactive screens on cardio equipment, and Olympic lifting platforms. Additionally, a privacy wall was constructed, providing increased comfort for those patrons who prefer to exercise in a private setting.

Park Shops
Staff members of the Office of the Vice Chancellor and Dean have moved from their long-time home in historic Holladay Hall, to another iconic NC State building: Park Shops. Constructed in 1914, the building was named in honor of Charles B. Park, a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. The building underwent a comprehensive renovation in spring of 2009.

The move brings together Vice Chancellor and Dean Dr. Mullen’s direct reports and support staff in a central location, allowing for closer collaboration with other offices in the division, including the Office of Undergraduate Research, TRIO Programs, Undergraduate Courses and Curricula, and the University Tutorial Center.
BAYER GIFT GROWS A GARDEN

Honors garden lets students design their own outdoor corner of campus

A group of students in the University Honors Program has gone green in a big way, bringing beauty to NC State’s campus, while also making a long term impact on the environment.

Students in the University Honors seminar Pollinator Gardening (HON 297) spent the spring semester researching native flowering plant species and planning the installation of a pollinator garden. The decline of honey bee populations, as well as native bee species, has a direct impact on American agriculture. Because pollination is essential for the production of fruits and vegetables, there is a critical need to protect native pollinator species and honey bees. Part of protecting pollinator species is providing food sources that are available throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons. With financial support from the Bayer CropScience Bee Care Center, and led by Dr. Susan Carson (Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and Director of the NC State Quality Enhancement Plan), students have created a space on campus that is not only visually stunning, but which will also support environmental health.

At the beginning of the semester, students were assigned to teams (Procurement, Design, Resource Guide, and Poster) and were directly involved in all stages of creating the garden.

PROCUREMENT TEAM
- Erin Bacon: Human Biology, Freshman
- Kendall Wiggins: Biomedical Engineering, Sophomore

Members of the procurement team collaborated with NC State Grounds Maintenance supervisor Dallas Bretzman. Bacon and

Wiggins acquired all of the plants from local nurseries, endeavoring to include as many native plants as possible. The team’s biggest challenge was selecting plants that will thrive in the garden, while also adhering to the layout and color scheme envisioned by the design team.

DESIGN TEAM
- Elizabeth Vicario: Civil Engineering, Freshman
- Bryce Abbott: Aerospace Engineering, Freshman
- Briana Campbell: Economics, Sophomore

“It’s cool to leave something lasting on campus. It makes the spot look nicer than it did before, and it also has a good ecological impact.”

Kendall Wiggins

When designing the garden, purposeful planning of the layout was essential. Design team members gave consideration to which plants would need room to expand, or which would require greater exposure to sun. The layout was carefully designed in advance of breaking ground with team members sharing responsibility for creating technical drawings to illustrate their design plans. Team members were especially vigilant during the planting process to ensure that plants were placed in accordance with the final design, resulting in a space which is both functionally efficient and visually appealing.
The planning and planting component of the project may be complete, but the garden will require maintenance in order to continue to thrive. The resource guide team put HON 297’s vision for the future of the garden on paper, creating a point of reference for those who will assume responsibility for the care of the garden. The resource guide developed by the students includes seasonally-specific renderings of the garden as well as information about the plants and their required care. The guide ensures that the garden will become a lasting fixture of the Honors Village, continuing to thrive for future students to enjoy.

“Since this is a student-led project, part of the plan is for students to take care of the garden in the future….Because of the plant selection we chose and the fact that we have drip irrigation, the maintenance should be pretty minimal after the first year.” - Daniel Hueholt

Funding for the pollinator garden was provided by Bayer CropScience. The class traveled to the Bayer CropScience campus and the poster team presented the poster they designed to illustrate HON 297’s vision for the garden to Bayer executives, including principal scientist and entomologist Dick Rogers. Students also had the opportunity to tour Bayer’s own pollinator garden.

“My whole rationale with picking Honors Seminars is to do something that I’m not used to doing and gives me a break from the classes that are more concerned with my major.”

- Matt Burroughs

When asked about their experiences with the University Honors Program, most students said that they particularly enjoy the exposure to diverse experiences that is afforded to them as Honors students. Many also spoke about the sense of community that stems from participating.

“I chose the class because I actually had zero interest in gardening. I figured I would try to do something different, because that’s what they encourage you to do in Honors.” - Mitch Kessler

“This [HON 297] is so hands on; it’s not like any other class experience.” - Elizabeth Vicario
PHILANTHROPY | ROTC

SUPPORTING ROTC

Students who participate in ROTC are among NC State’s most inspiring.

Demonstrating maturity beyond their years, as young adults they are already dedicated to serving our country and representing the university through their service.

Cadets add their ROTC responsibilities to the already weighty challenges of being a student. No doubt about it, these students are tough. But behind the discipline and rigor, they are still students away from home and struggling to find balance between personal and academic endeavors and at some point, they will need someone to rely on. Someone to listen without judgement, or to offer words of comfort during times of uncertainty. At NC State, for students in ROTC programs, Dan Coutcher was that person.

Dan’s life’s work was built upon supporting and providing spiritual guidance for students participating in ROTC programs. His faith and passion for serving students made him a natural fit for collegiate and ROTC ministry work. He was a confidant, a mentor, and above all, an inspiration to all who crossed his path.

Dan passed away in September 2015, following a courageous battle with cancer. The loss was profound, but it is clear that he left NC State’s campus a kinder, more compassionate place than he found it. To honor his legacy and the impact he had on students, Gail and Tim Hughes, Dan’s sister and brother-in-law, have established the Dan and Lois Coutcher Scholarship for Navy and Marine Corps ROTC. Gail and Tim are both first generation college graduates. They understand firsthand the necessity of education, and the challenges that many students face during their journey to degree completion.

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There are so many ways to show support. Through the establishment of the Dan and Lois Coutcher Scholarship, Gail and Tim are also helping students with limited financial resources find meaningful ways to contribute to society and “pay it forward”, beyond financial donations. Monetary support is essential, but the Hughes family also wants students to realize that gifts of time and talent are every bit as valuable. Recipients of the Coutcher Scholarship will be required to contribute to the local community as volunteers. It’s an early opportunity to establish within students a philanthropic mindset—and a reminder that philanthropy doesn’t always equate to dollars.

Dan Coutcher embodied the very best of the world—selflessness and integrity, and unwavering faith in humanity—and he had the rare ability to inspire the same in others. Through the establishment of this scholarship, Gail and Tim Hughes are ensuring that students who best represent these admirable qualities are afforded access to the high-impact educational and leadership experiences that are essential in helping students achieve success.

Connect

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for students participating in Naval or Marine Corps ROTC programs who demonstrate leadership qualifications and are service-minded.

The need-based scholarship provides financial assistance for students with limited financial resources.

They understand firsthand the necessity of education, and the challenges that many students face during their journey to degree completion.
HONORS ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

Blanton endowment helps prepare students for capstones

Marilyn Blanton has always held firm to the belief that the way forward is through education.

Her children, including NC State professor Dr. Richard “Larry” Blanton, were always encouraged to seek opportunities to gain knowledge and pursue their passions. Now, having seen her own children to adulthood, she is extending her reach beyond her own family unit to the NC State students who will benefit from her newly established endowment, the Richard L. Blanton University Honors Program (UHP) Capstone Award Endowment. The endowment will provide cash awards to recipients of the annual Richard L. Blanton UHP Capstone Award.

The endowment will benefit students who are preparing for their capstone projects. The capstone experience may well be the most significant of a student’s undergraduate career, signifying the culmination of their academic careers. To successfully complete the capstone project, students must effectively demonstrate in-depth, practical understanding of their major, applying the tools and modes of their fields of study to their project topics. Students are supported by a faculty mentor and upon completion, present their projects publicly.

In addition to establishing this endowment, Blanton provides generous annual support to the Fellowship Advising Office. This past year, this support benefited students participating in undergraduate research opportunities and the University Honors and Shelton Leadership Programs. In the spring, a group of students from these programs participated in a professional development seminar at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. Students traveled together from NC State to Asheville. En route, newspapers were distributed to students so that they could familiarize themselves with current events and develop talking points in preparation for a networking reception they would attend that evening at the Biltmore. Participating students gained valuable networking experience with Biltmore executives, including president and CEO William A.V. Cecil, Jr. Dan Heath, author of the New York Times bestseller Switch, was the keynote presenter for the seminar. Six students who otherwise might not have been able to finance the trip were able to attend as a direct result of Blanton’s generosity.

When asked why it was so important that she name the endowment for her son, her response was concise and matter of fact: “Because I love him.” Dr. Blanton’s impact on campus is far-reaching and widely lauded. A member of the campus community and faculty for 13 years, he was the first permanent director of the University Honors Program and has been directly involved with the Fellowship Advising Office for 12 years, working closely with students as they pursue opportunities for advanced study. Participation in such experiences during the undergraduate years also helps to keep students engaged with the university, solidifying their connection to the campus community even after graduation. These students will often continue to support those programs which provided meaningful learning experiences, as alumni.

Marilyn Blanton is quick to acknowledge that she believes education is a key component of achieving success, and she has always supported her children in their pursuit of knowledge. Now, she’s reaching even more students, providing the financial support to help a new generation of students realize their greatest potential.
CLOSING THE SUCCESS GAP

Student success is at the forefront of everything we do at NC State.

Our goal is to ensure a quality experience for all students, from the day they receive their acceptance letters to the day they receive their diplomas. And, we want each of these students to feel valued, welcomed, encouraged, and equipped with everything they need along the way.

A recent study by Education Trust shows that we are on the right track to doing just that. Inside Higher Ed published an article this past March discussing the study’s main finding: “...most public colleges have improved overall graduation rates during the last decade...but gaps between the academic success of black students and that of white students continue to widen.”

At most public colleges. But, not at NC State. Because, as the article points out, at NC State “...graduation rates for black students improved by 12.5 percentage points over 10 years, narrowing the gap between black students and white students to 10 points.”

Michael Coombes, Director, New Student Programs, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, explains that in addition to narrowing the graduation gap, NC State has also been retaining black students at a higher rate than white students. “Black students report feeling a sense of community at rates comparable to other groups on campus,” he explains. “It may indicate their level of social or emotional connection to NC State which, according to research, plays a critical role in their success on a given campus.”

While these statistics are promising, the goal is to eradicate the gap altogether. Coombes, along with others on campus, provide programming aimed at making that happen.

For starters, New Student Orientation. It gives students a place to connect with other students and faculty and staff and provides students with resources to aid in their success both inside and outside the classroom. “Its strategic initiatives include sessions that stress social connections between students, to begin the process of building meaningful relationships within their academic college, the integration of high impact practices to increase student engagement in activities that research has shown promotes academic, social, and emotional success, and programs that more directly address the cultural and environmental expectations present on our campus,” explains Coombes.

Wolfpack Welcome Week (WWW), held at the start of the school year to help students continue to build a strong sense of community, includes such signature events as Convocation and Respect the Pack. At Convocation, new students are officially welcomed to campus, and at Respect the Pack, students, staff, faculty, and administration join together...
to paint messages of inclusion in the atrium of Talley Student Union. Cultural and leadership opportunities are also highlighted during WWW through events hosted by the African American Cultural Center and the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Other initiatives working to help close the gap are a pilot Living and Learning Village called the Black Male Initiative which focuses on academic, professional and personal growth while striving to overcome negative stereotypes and societal challenges - and TRIO Programs – federal outreach and student services programs created to offer equal access to quality education by facilitating retention and promotion from middle schools through post-baccalaureate completion. NC State hosts several TRIO programs including Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound (on average, 65% of its graduates earn a bachelor’s degree within six years), Student Support Services, and Student Support Services STEM.

“These events, taken individually or as a whole, promote the successful transition, academically, socially, culturally, of our African American students into NC State and higher education,” further notes Coombes.

Findings from education researchers agree. In a pilot experiment in 2012, recently featured in the New York Times, psychology education researcher David Yeager found that messaging focused on belonging and reinforcing the idea that studying makes a difference truly did make all the difference. The messaging meant a cut in the gap.

“Every college freshman – rich or poor, white or minority, first-generation or legacy – experiences academic setbacks and awkward moments when they feel like they don’t belong. But white students and wealthy students and students with college-graduate parents tend not to take those moments too seriously or too personally,” the article notes. “It is only students facing the particular fears and anxieties and experiences of exclusion that come with being a minority – whether by race or class – who are susceptible to this problem. Those students often misinterpret temporary setbacks as a permanent indication that they can’t succeed or don’t belong.”

What Yeager’s research indicates is that with critical messaging at the time of transition, this problem becomes less of one for minority students, and it’s the basis for much of our programming. “In order to graduate students, we need to ensure their persistence to their third semester as a starting place for their success in later years,” echoes Coombes. “Their success in their first year is vital to continuing their path to graduation.”

Due to the extensive programming available within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, we are delivering the critical message when it is needed. Our student success achievement gap is beginning to close, but we will not stop until it is completely gone.
EXPLORING, LIVING, & LEARNING

The added value of living on campus

As a first year student at NC State, Peyton Holmquist wasn’t quite sure what she wanted to study, a common challenge faced by many incoming first-year students. But, when she decided to live in the Exploratory Studies Village – one of 14 Living and Learning Villages on campus – she instantly surrounded herself with other students similarly situated as well as a robust staff dedicated to making college life transitions and career path decisions easier.

“Everyone living in the Exploratory Studies Village is either looking for community, looking for friends, or looking to find a major that suits them well,” explains Holmquist.

Spenser Norman, Community Director, Arts Village and Global Village, agrees. “Many first-year students arrive on campus wondering: How am I going to connect? How am I going to find a fit? How am I going to find a group to belong to? The university provides that opportunity; the villages take it one step further and provide that community.”

It’s about that added value to an already great university experience that causes students to choose village living.

What makes the Exploratory Studies Village unique is that it is linked to an academic unit – students in the village are required to take one Introduction to University Education course each semester that is taught by their academic advisor. Some students in the village also take a first year inquiry class together. “We really try to link the village with the introductory courses so that it is a holistic experience inside and outside of the classroom,” explains Kimberly Cole, director of Exploratory Studies Village. “Most other villages do not have classes associated with it to the degree that we do.”

An example of this co-curricular approach was an etiquette dinner held last year in conjunction with one of the spring introductory courses. Over 70 students attended to gain insight about generational differences in the workplace and dinner etiquette. The dinner itself was conducted as if it was an actual interview, and it brought the topics being studied in the introductory class – career informational interviewing, professional development, and resumes – full circle.

It’s about that connection to coursework aimed at career preparation.

In addition to providing a shared space for students exploring their college and career paths, the Exploratory Studies Village offers students easy access to resources. The village is located on central campus, with the offices for academic advisors just across the street. And, along with traditional resident advisors, students living in villages also have resident mentors – upperclassmen who experienced the program first hand as first-year students – who collaborate with the resident advisors to provide support and guidance to each student. Resident mentors in the Exploratory Studies Village also serve as teaching assistants in the required introductory courses.

“Resident mentors can engage with students on a deeper level, and they really learn a lot from each other,” notes Durell Hurst, assistant director of University Housing.

Holmquist is just one of the many students who have gone through the program as a first-year student and then returned to serve as a resident mentor. She says that one of the great things about village life is the “great staff-to-student ratio.”
According to Hurst, there is one Resident Advisor for every 60 students and one Resident Mentor for every 30 students. “We care so much about what we are doing, we want as much staff focused on it as possible,” he explains. “When looking at other institutions, it’s really not as hands-on.”

It’s about that additional personal attention.

The amount of both academic and social programming provided in the villages is vast and ongoing, from cultural exchange seminars and stress management programs to video game tournaments, DIY workshops, and academic advising nights. In the village, resident mentors host the “Pack Academic Workshop Series,” offering two sessions a week on topics ranging from global citizenship, service learning, and academic success to major exploration and co-curricular planning.

The Exploratory Studies Village also uses Learning Excursions for students to learn about majors and careers through hands-on experiences. For example, students in the village have visited the Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) to learn about biopharmaceuticals careers and the BTEC minor, the NC State Veterinary Hospital to discuss careers in veterinary medicine and participate in a hands-on lab with fish, and the Conservators’ Center for an in-depth look at animals and the environment.

The Leadership Potential Retreat is offered through the Exploratory Studies Village as a weekend long retreat, students have the opportunity to explore their own capacity for leadership. During the retreat, students assess their strengths and leadership styles while also focusing on group dynamics and communication skills. “It pushes them toward confidence,” says Caitlin Grindall, one of the residence directors for the Exploratory Studies Village. “Normally by the end of it, they don’t want to go. They have become like a small family.”

It’s about that focus on growth.

There is one annual event in the Exploratory Studies Village, however, that may have rights over all others. More specifically, naming rights. Located between Tucker and Owen Halls is a green space known as “The Beach” which is home to a sand volleyball court. Each year, in what has come to be known as “The Battle of the Beach,” the two halls compete in a variety of outdoor events like volleyball and tug-of-war, with the winner claiming rights to “The Beach” for the year. If Tucker Hall wins, it’s called Tucker Beach for that year. If Owen Hall wins, it’s Owen Beach for the year. Last year, over 245 residents attended in addition to approximately 50 parents and family members. It’s one of those cases where no matter who wins, everyone wins. Which is sort of the overall theme among all of the villages.

It’s about everyone working together to help each other find their way.

“Students living in a village setting are more apt to have a high GPA, tend to graduate from college within four or five years, have more experiences to list on a resume, and are more involved overall as students,” further notes Hurst.

“This program really allowed me to find my passion,” says Holmquist. And that’s really what it’s all about.
A SCHOLARLY APPROACH

Two programs, two ways to stand out from the Pack

At NC State, we take pride in providing enriching programs that actively engage students in the process of learning. The University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program are two such exemplary offerings. They provide deep learning at a high level with one major difference—the setting.

While the Honors Program is course driven and research focused, and thus, more traditionally classroom and lab based, the Scholars Program often takes its classroom on the road, sometimes quite literally (an outdoor excursion set for Spring Break 2017 features a desert reading road trip in the Southwest). “Both programs take a well-rounded, interdisciplinary approach, allowing students to look at issues from different perspectives and to be aware of the world,” explains Susan Carson, Interim Executive Director of Academic Enrichment Programs. “The end results of both programs are similar, but the journeys differ.”

Veale says that often students arrive at college already settled into a career, mentioning Michelle Phillips, an alum who arrived at NC State ready to study engineering. As Phillips started talking to people in different disciplines of study, her love of thrill rides happened to come up. They asked if she had ever thought of making that passion part of her studies. She hadn’t. For her Capstone project, she assembled the animatronic wolf that now sits in Hunt Library. For her career, she’s an engineer at Universal Creative and helped with the design of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter Diagon Alley expansion. “That’s the beauty of the program,” exclaims Veale. “It allows students to dream big to make things happen to achieve their career goals.”

At the heart of the Scholars Program are its forums—students are required to attend at least 12 each semester—and enrichment activities—of which there were over 513 different opportunities in the 2015-16 academic
year—as well as exploration trips. Held once a week during the school year, forums feature everything from musical and theatrical performances to addresses by world-class scientists to debates on public policy issues. Students have the option to attend the scheduled forum or to attend one of the other forum based events—they receive a newsletter listing all of the applicable activities both on and off campus.

“By really getting out and engaging in the community and with the world around them, they grow in ways they might not get to grow through regular coursework,” emphasizes Carson. “It helps them become cognitively of the world around them, to be aware of their impact, to be empathetic, to be good stewards of the world in addition to good students.”

Along with annual outdoor excursions and an overseas trip (past trips explored such cities as London, Paris, Rome, Barcelona, Istanbul, and Lisbon), the Scholars Program includes summer study abroad opportunities in Florence and Oxford directed by staff who lead the course component and co-curricular activities.

In Summer 2017, for the first time, students in the Honors Program will be invited to join Scholars Program students studying abroad in Oxford, and an epidemiology interdisciplinary Honors Seminar titled “Outbreak,” will be added to current offerings. A proposal has been submitted for a Maymester study abroad opportunity in Paris, which will also invite both Scholars and Honors students and will offer an Honors Seminar studying expatriate authors who have relocated to the City of Light.

Such new opportunities—along with the recent hiring of a new Honors Village director and a soon-to-be-announced new associate director for the Honors Program—indicate that these programs continue to grow, as do the students taking part. While each program takes a different approach, they both encourage students to stand out from the crowd. Veale sums it up best: “Students in these programs set themselves apart to become the true leaders of the pack.”
SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE

Closing the gap between professors and students

In looking for a way to expand her teaching world, Sheryl Cornett, an English professor at NC State, became a Scholar in Residence within the Honors Village, living in an apartment on the same floor as students for the past two years. “It is a wonderful, really eclectic and rich opportunity to learn from students,” she explains. “It brings the teacher-student interaction outside of the classroom, engaging the students’ minds and imaginations beyond their majors.”

The Honors Village is one of three Living and Learning Villages that currently have a Scholar in Residence, along with the Global and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Villages. Research indicates that faculty interactions within residence halls, student centers, and dining halls bridge formal academic programs and out of classroom learning into beneficial student experiences resulting in augmented intellectual development, growth in autonomy and independence, and increased interpersonal skills.

Veronica Cooley-Perry, assistant director, University Housing, explains that this initiative is one of the ways in which the Honors Village promotes student success. “The amount of impact Sheryl has had is phenomenal – the students love her, and she’s really found a niche.”

Cornett sees her role as providing a liberal arts environment in a STEM university. She works with a lot of engineering students who wish they could be writers. Or artists. Some have even added a creative minor to their degree, a clear indication of the positive influence she’s having on students.

“If I ever needed anything, I knew I could reach out.”
Shrikar Nunna

“It’s a safe place for students to draw and paint and sew and write, even when not getting course credit,” Cornett notes. “There’s an investment being made not just in academics but also the personal success in the life of developing one’s mind.” She co-leads, along with a student, a weekly gathering called Cultural Explorations, where she opens up her apartment to students for cookies and tea and the floor for discussion.

“Students don’t often have one-on-one with their professors,” explains Shrikar Nunna, who is double majoring in chemical engineering and political science and will be a junior this fall. “It was great having an informal setting with a professor where you can talk about non-academic things. If I ever needed anything, I knew I could reach out.”

The feeling is clearly mutual as Cornett just recently signed on for another year in the program. “It’s all about closing the gap between professors and students,” she emphasizes.
NC State is located in the heart of Raleigh—the City of Oaks. Juxtaposed with the endless expanses of red brick and the modern and classical lines of central campus are oak trees, many of which have been here for as long as the institution has existed. Rather than destroy the natural beauty as the university has expanded, efforts have been made whenever possible to incorporate the trees into the aesthetics of the campus.

Many years ago, the location that is now Wolf Village was a farm. During the designing of Wolf Village, three large, mature trees that were part of that farm were protected from construction. The trees became known as the “Oak Circle” and were qualified as Heritage Trees by NC State’s Heritage Tree Advisory Committee. The committee, appointed by Kevin MacNaughton (Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities), is charged with identifying and protecting landmark trees that have developed historical or aesthetic value because of age, rarity, or association with an important event or person, or memorial significance to the university.

In 2015, it was determined that one of the Oak Circle trees was affected by root disease and would have to be removed for health and safety precautions. As the tree was considered a Heritage Tree, the university sought to honor it in some way. After the oak was uprooted, University Housing engaged local chainsaw artist Jerry Reid to find a meaningful manner of repurposing the wood.

Over the course of four days in late April 2016, Reid, in conjunction with Randy Boni, an artist from Pennsylvania, transformed the wood into four sculptural wolves standing on an outcrop of rocks, using a variety of chainsaws. To provide more depth to the wolves, portions were skillfully burned to result in a texture that mimics a wolf’s coat. Eyes were created using glass. The wolves were formed from the trunk of the tree and from a large piece of limb.

The piece has been entitled Spirit of the Wolfpack and will eventually rest in the lobby of Gray Hall. The current piece of artwork in Gray Hall, a wolf designed by Jim Gallucci of Greensboro as part of the Red Wolf Ramble project in 2001-02, will be moved across the courtyard to the lobby of Red Hall.

After the oak was uprooted, University Housing engaged local chainsaw artist Jerry Reid to find a meaningful manner of repurposing the wood.
Different paths, same extraordinary results

Learning practical skills through research experiences. Engaging in the arts. Serving as an ambassador with the Career Development Center. Living in the Exploratory Studies Village as a resident mentor. These are just a few of the outstanding opportunities students have explored within the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at NC State University. Our students may belong to the same pack, but their paths to success are as vibrant and varied as the programs and services we offer. NC State senior Michaela Rikard found her path to success through the Office of Undergraduate Research, which provides mentored research experiences to students. As part of a collaboration between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Biomedical Engineering Department, she is working on a project dedicated to pulmonary fibrosis, specifically looking at how stem cell therapy can be used to regenerate healthy lung tissue. The research is currently in animal models, but her goal is to see it through to human clinical trials.

“The Office of Undergraduate Research supports students in finding these opportunities, pairing them up with mentors, offering grants, and they even hold a symposium every semester that’s specifically for undergraduate students to present their research,” says Rikard. “It’s been a wonderful growth opportunity for me. I’ve had several graduate school interviews over the past couple of months, and it just makes the process so easy because I have all of this research experience I can talk about and connect with at these interviews.”

NC State graduate student John Miller IV found his path to success through Arts NC State, which provides a dynamic offering of dance, design, music, theater, and crafts for students and the surrounding community. After graduating in the spring of 2015 with a degree in psychology, Miller began work on a master’s degree in the Higher Education Administration Program. As an undergraduate, he was a dancer in the Panoramic Dance Project, which gave him the opportunity to take technique classes, work with prominent guest choreographers and teachers, and perform choreography he helped create. His participation embraces one of the key points of Arts NC State – a student doesn’t have to major in the arts to be an artist.

“Engaging in the arts really allowed me to explore the intersection of arts, philosophy, and business. It really helped me critically think in my classes, it expanded my appreciation of art forms, and I was able to improve on my wellness, both physical and mental. It connected me with the community and really increased my sense of belonging,” explains Miller. “Not only did it help me grow artistically and academically, it helped me grow professionally.”

NC State senior Todd Goldfarb found his path to success through the Career Development Center. In addition to providing such resources as ePACK (a system for locating internships and entry-level jobs) and a co-op program, the center employs over 20 students to work as career ambassadors. Goldfarb, who is studying industrial engineering, served for three years as a career ambassador, presenting at such events as residence hall programs and sorority and fraternity programs on topics ranging from resume writing and career fair prep to interviewing skills and center services. He also represented the center at career and information fairs around campus.

“It’s been great. It’s been my family. It’s made the big NC State feel small,” he says when
talking about his role within the center. “Not only has the Career Development Center helped me, it’s helped those around me. I’m able to connect with my colleagues and classmates and share the message and the tools and the resources.”

NC State junior Peyton Holmquist found her path to success through Exploratory Studies, a program focused on first-year students who want to explore different majors, and the Exploratory Studies Village, a living and learning community dedicated to first year Exploratory Studies students. She discovered an interest in communication and, after completing the program, she became a resident mentor, an upperclassman who has experienced the program firsthand who lives in the village with the students and acts as a resource.

“This program really allowed me to find my passion and figure out that studying communication is a lot more what I’m interested in,” Holmquist explains. “I think the best way to describe it is a concentrated, intentional community. It shows the balance between student life and also in the classroom.”

These students engaged in programs available at the university, finding what worked for them and exemplifying the idea that student success means different things for different students. It’s amazing to think of the infinite paths to success available to all students at NC State. What’s even more amazing are the sentiments echoed from these students’ stories: “I can talk about and connect…my sense of belonging…it’s been my family…a concentrated, intentional community.”

Different paths, different focus, same feelings of connecting and belonging. It does all seem to go back to the pack.

“Not only did it help me to grow artistically and academically, it helped me grow professionally.”
John Miller IV
Olga Kleiankina wins Outstanding Teacher Award

Dr. Olga Kleiankina, associate teaching professor in the Music Department, was named as a recipient of NC State’s Outstanding Teacher Award for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. The Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes excellence in teaching at all levels. Nominees are recommended by students and faculty members.

Career Development Center director named to accreditation post

Arnold Bell, director of the Career Development Center, was elected Accreditation Council for Cooperative Education and Internship (ACCEI) Vice-Chair for Accreditation and Standards. The ACCEI is an association dedicated to encouraging and recognizing excellence in programs of cooperative education and academic internships.

Paul Tongsri nominated for HECMA award

Paul Tongsri, student behavioral case manager in the Office of Student Conduct, was awarded the 2016 Higher Education Case Managers Association (HECMA) Leadership Award. The award was established to honor an individual whose professional accomplishments have made a significant impact on the field of higher education case management, and whose character and work products have earned the respect and admiration of their professional colleagues.

Paul Cousins is new UNC Campus Safety Committee chair

Paul Cousins, director of Student Conduct at NC State, was named chair of the UNC Campus Safety Committee in 2015. The committee was formed out of a recommendation of the 2014 Campus Security Initiative report. Members are charged with finding ways to implement the other 35 recommendations to improve campus security on all of the state’s college campuses.

Maria Crockett given the Barbara Soloman Award

Maria Crockett, an advisor in the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes, was selected to receive the Barbara Soloman Advising award at the 2015-16 Academic Advising Award ceremony in March. The award is given in recognition of dedicated service to students from a primary role advisor. The winner of this award is a professional advisor who contributes to student success by going the extra mile to provide involved, holistic and developmentally sensitive guidance.

Caterpillar Scholar Athletes compete hard on the field and in class

Each year, in partnership with Caterpillar, the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes (ASPSA) recognizes the academic accomplishments of NC State student-athletes through the Caterpillar Scholar Athlete Program. Those student athletes earning a term GPA at or above 3.0 are recognized with the honor. The 2015-16 academic year saw 398 athletes recognized.
Justine Hollingshead receives Governor’s Award for Excellence

Justine Hollingshead, chief of staff for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, was named one of seven recipients of the 2015 Governor’s Award for Excellence, the state’s highest honor for state employees.

The Governor’s Awards for Excellence program is designed to acknowledge and express appreciation for outstanding accomplishments that do not fall entirely within the scope of normal duties, but are in the nature of major contributions reflecting credit on the person and state service.

Hollingshead was chosen in the human relations category, which honors one who “made outstanding contributions toward enhancing the quality and morale of the workplace or creating a better public image of state government (such as positive personal interaction with other employees; public awareness; working on relations internally within an agency; or collaboration between different agencies).”

Hollingshead was specifically nominated for her work in the aftermath of the shootings of three members of the NC State community, married NC State alumni Deah Barakat and Yusor Abu-Salha, students at UNC’s School of Dentistry, and NC State sophomore design student Razan Abu-Salha.

NC State celebrates its first Churchill Scholar

Mithi “Mia” de los Reyes was awarded the Churchill Scholarship, making her the first Churchill recipient in NC State’s history. Students in their senior years who demonstrate a record of academic excellence and advanced research and study, honors, and awards are eligible for the Churchill Scholarship, a one-year award that leads to a Master of Philosophy in science, mathematics, physics, or engineering. In addition to the many individuals who have provided her with mentorship and written letters on her behalf, Mia was greatly supported in her efforts by the Fellowship Advising Office. The Fellowship Advising Office works with students as they apply for national fellowship opportunities. Students work closely with advisors who guide them through the process, providing assistance with selecting fellowship opportunities, critiquing essays and response statements, providing institutional endorsements, and staging mock interviews for applicants who have been selected for regional interviews.

Student Health Services receives 3-year accreditation extension

NC State Student Health Services has achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Accreditation distinguishes this student health center from many other outpatient facilities by providing the highest quality of care to its patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation. Status as an accredited organization means NC State Student Health Services has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC. More than 6,000 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States are accredited by AAAHC. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all that undergo the rigorous on-site survey process are granted accreditation. NC State Student Health Services will not undergo accreditation review again until 2019.
Three Higher Ed graduates begin doctorates

Three graduates of the Higher Education Administration masters program at NC State have been accepted into doctoral programs in Florida and Indiana. Marshall Anthony and Jamaal Harrison begin their programs at Florida State University in the fall and Latosha Williams begins her journey at Indiana University.

WKNC adds HD radio, antenna

WKNC completed a $150,000 project to modify their directional antenna pattern to add 23,000 households to its coverage area toward Goldsboro and Rocky Mount, NC. The purchased included a new HD radio transmitter to replacing the existing transmitter. The second phase of the project is scheduled for 2018-19 and will include a new HD-2 broadcast studio.

Two HES employees recognized as EMS 10 innovators

Two members of the Department of Health and Exercise Studies have been awarded the 2015 EMS10 Innovators in EMS award for their work with the Foundation for Prehospital Medicine Research. Ginny Renkiewicz and Sara Houston, both trained paramedics, established the Foundation for Prehospital Medicine Research, an organization which introduces pre-medicine and paramedic undergraduate students to a data-driven, analytical approach to studying Emergency Medical Services. Each year the foundation sponsors and hosts the EMS Research Summit, affording students the opportunity to gain hands-on clinical research experience, working alongside research professors, EMS providers, and biostatisticians to analyze EMS data and conduct research that many will opt to publish prior to graduation.

The EMS 10 is a global award for innovation in the field of prehospital medicine, awarded by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services and sponsored by medical equipment company PhysioControl. Ten individuals from around the world are selected to receive the award each year.

NC State first to complete Healthier Campus Initiative

The Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) announced that NC State completed the Healthier Campus Commitment two years ahead of schedule. NC State University is the first campus to successfully complete its commitment, encouraging healthier options among the more than 40,000 students, faculty and staff on campus each year. There are currently 60 other colleges and universities in the Healthier Campus Initiative.

Gregg Museum wins excellence award

The North Carolina Museums Council honored the Gregg Museum’s exhibition Life’s Little Dramas: Puppets, Proxies and Spirits with two 2016 Gold Awards for Excellence at their conference in March 2016. Individuals and institutions across the Tar Heel State were recognized for excellence and professionalism within the museum profession.
11,311 students participated in events during WOLFPACK WELCOME WEEK

1,210 students took advantage of walk-in advising services

398 student athletes were recognized as Caterpillar Scholar Athletes in Spring 2016

22,000 HOURS OF TUTORING through the University Tutorial Center

$102,000 raised to establish a sales and marketing lab in the Career Development Center

$17,750 ASB Travel Awards provided to increase student access

14,399 students attended CAREER FAIRS

10,400 students lived and learned in University Housing accommodations

11,311 students directly impacted in sections

857 units of blood were collected during the 6th annual Service NC State Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross

89 people initiated into the Order of Omega

14,379 total hours of Student Service with the community

764 students presented at Undergraduate Research Symposia

54 award recipients through the Fellowship Advising Office

54

14,379

2,499 students directly impacted in sections

1,1 million visits to the Carmichael Complex

1.1 million

62 University Honors Program participants studied abroad

14,379 student athletes were recognized as Caterpillar Scholar Athletes in Spring 2016

62

2,499 students directly impacted in sections
NC STATE