



A&T

Exponential:

Preeminence 2030 and Now, Next & Beyond

Faculty/Professional Staff Assembly
James R. Martin II
August 15, 2025



Candice's Story



A Year Unlike Any Other

Trending Topics

Donald Trump

Xi Jinping

Texas Floods

US Layoffs

Shehbaz Sharif

US universities face mounting pressure under Trump's second term

Breaking News: NCAA NIL Rules Overhauled in Historic \$2.8 Billion Settlement

Skilled scientists at these government agencies are quietly being let go, union reps say

EDUCATION

University of Virginia president, pressured over DEI, resigns rather than 'fight federal government'

International STEM Students Are Turning Away From the U.S. > Trump policies shift America's place in global education market

NIH cuts billions of dollars in biomedical funding, effective immediately



It Took a Toll on Many



EAB

Why Students Are Opting Out of College

The King's College to Close Permanently

Duke University offers buyouts and signals future layoffs as federal cuts hit

June closings: Siena Heights won't 'be the last' small college to close

North Carolina's Guilford College scrambles for cash to keep its accreditation

North Carolina HBCU faces battle with IRS, risks being shut down

U.S. & WORLD NEWS

A South Carolina college could close after 179 years if it can't find \$6 million by Tuesday



In Aggieland, We Thrived

JetZero Selects North Carolina for \$4.7B Production Facility; Will Create Over 14,500 Jobs

North Carolina A&T Launches First State Aerospace Engineering Degree

This fall marks a turning point as North Carolina A&T State University starts the state's first aerospace engineering bachelor's program. The move aims to supply skilled workers to the area's...

NBA Selects CAA Basketball Teams For 2026 HBCU Classic In Los Angeles

The National Basketball Association announced the two HBCU basketball teams participating at the 2026 HBCU Classic game.

HBCU Legends Sports Newswire | Jul 8, 2025



Statewide first: N.C. A&T to offer degree in artificial intelligence



Image: North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

N.C. A&T Receives \$4.8M NIH Grant to Study Alzheimer's Disease

Walter Hudson
Nov 25, 2024



A new \$4.8 million grant to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's [Center for Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging and Community Health \(COACH\)](#) will help the historically Black college and university study Alzheimer's disease in middle-aged African Americans.

Fitch Upgrades North Carolina A&T State University Revs to 'AA'; Outlook Stable

Self-driving cars to help rural communities in N.C.? Researchers look at the potential

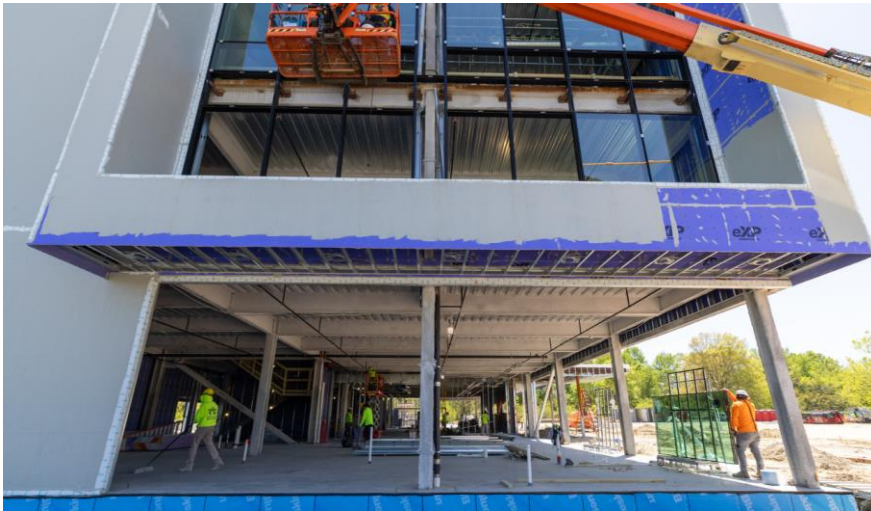
BY AMY ELLIOTT | NORTH CAROLINA
PUBLISHED 8:00 AM ET MAY 20, 2025



Greensboro, N.C. — NC A&T State University's transportation research, and a cutting-edge driving simulator, is attracting the attention of state leaders. The data they're gathering helps with research on autonomous cars and transportation planning in [rural and underserved communities](#).



That's What Aggies DO



2024-25: A Review

- **Admissions:** A&T exceeded 50K total applications for the first time, drawing a total of more than 51K at UG and graduate levels
- **Student Success.** Cut student debt, boosted investment in graduate financial aid
- **Outcomes.** Our 4-year grad rate of 42.5% surpassed the BOG stretch goal by 4% as we produced a record 2,700 graduates
- **Digital Support.** Launched 5 new AI-driven platforms to boost student success and wellness
- **Fiscally Strong.** Fitch upgraded our credit and bond ratings to AA, citing strong financial management
- **Construction.** Work advanced significantly at Bluford Hall, the Resurgent and Urban Food Complex, all now nearing completion
- **Academics.** Launched DNP and Criminal Justice MS/Ph.D. programs. New AI, Aeronautical & Astronautical Eng. and Physician Assistant programs enroll first classes this fall
- **Leadership.** Filled senior vacancies in timely fashion: New VCs for Student Affairs, Business & Finance, interim VCs appointed in IT, Advancement, Academic Affairs, Human Resources. New Police Chief, as well
- **Athletics.** Launched \$1M NIL campaign with AAF, Athletics, Advancement, major donors

More 2024-25

- **Customer Service.** Improved answered-call rate in Financial Aid from **33% to 97%** on ~1,500 calls per day via temp employees, AI
 - Reinstated **shuttle stops** to A&T apts.
 - Launched **biometric payments** at Williams Dining Hall
- **Listening Tour** connected Chancellor to 42K participants at 200+ stakeholder engagements including high-profile keynotes and strategic partnership announcements
- **Careers.** A&T Fairs drew unprecedented participation, will now move to First Horizon Coliseum - all employers in single location, no one turned away for space
- **Academically Competitive.** A&T emerged in national analysis as 2nd-most selective university in the Triad, trailing only Wake Forest
- **NSF Chair.** Elected chair of NSF Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering at a time when its charge is of critical importance for higher ed and science communities



One Hot Summer!



- Our **bond/credit rating improved to AA** by Fitch – unprecedented among HBCUs. Major help in A&T financial management.
- We became the **first HBCU to host a joint meeting of APLU's Council on Research and Council on Government Relations**. Some 325 colleagues from around the country came to A&T to collaborate on the top issues facing research universities today.
- The acclaimed A&T documentary, “**Our Blues Make Us Gold,**” debuted on Juneteenth for Amazon's **Prime Video's** 200M subscribers, toured Atlanta, Charlotte, Greensboro & Durham and screened at the **Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival**.

\$30 MILLION: Housing Investments



- Over the past 12 months, we've serviced **1,500 HVAC systems**, completed **60 trade projects** (electrical, plumbing, locksmithing, general construction), did **mold remediation in 420 rooms**

- **Replaced HVAC** systems, installed \$2M in **new roofs**, replaced **shower heads & toilets**, used **drones to inspect roofing**, identify areas for pressure washing, completed **Home Depot Innovation Lounge** in Blair Hall



- Completed **\$250,000 in Student Satisfaction Improvements**: **ice machines** in every hall, **video gaming systems**, **student lounge upgrades**. Further improvements will be **driven by student input**, including SGA executive recommendations.

Project Kitty Hawk

- New partnership to serve adult learners with online degree programs
- MOU signed Tuesday
- First two programs, **BS in Criminal Justice, BA in Liberal Studies**, to launch in January
- We will scale our program inventory to expand access to high-quality higher education





Principal Partnership

*Partnership Vision: Positioning
A&T as a National Leader in
Aviation Innovation*



JetZero

- Establish A&T as the **premier university partner** for JetZero and other aviation/mobility pioneers
- Model a next-generation **Aviation Institute** aligned with A&T's research strengths and JetZero's mission
- Lead development of a **regional innovation ecosystem** around sustainable flight, composites and advanced mobility
- **Outcome:** A&T becomes the anchor institution for aerospace innovation in the Southeastern United States.



Principal Partnership



TOYOTA

- New partnership leverages Toyota's world-renowned process expertise and quality
- Will improve quality and efficiency of A&T operations and business practices beginning with student through-put
- Modernize and streamline operations through Lean Process Analysis
- Builds new platform for exponential growth in all areas, including academic, research, innovation and partnership
- **Outcomes:** Greater organizational agility and efficiency, improved throughput, enhanced customer service



New degree programs, strategic enrollment growth, rising graduation rates all require the teamwork and leadership these colleagues show.

Exponential Ingredients



**D-NP, MS,
Physician
Assistant Studies**
Dr. Elimelda Onger
Dr. Nicole Burwell
Dr. Tiffany Morris



**BS, Artificial
Intelligence**
Dr. Evelyn Sowell-Boone
Dr. Ahmad Patooghy
Dr. Kaushik Roy
Dr. Sajad Khorsandroo

**BS, Aeronautical
and Astronautical
Engineering**
Dr. Sun Yi
Dr. John Kizito



Graduate College
Dr. Matthew
McCullough
Dr. Clay Gloster



Recognizing Foundational Impact

Great things don't just happen. The people make them happen, often working behind the scenes and out of the spotlight. Consider these examples

Facilities & Grounds

Janice Smith
John Bass
Albert Holness
Alan Cole
Kendell Blackwell



Athletics

Dr. Janah Fletcher
Ryan Sanders
Sherry Long
Billy Edrington
Danyel Williams



Housekeeping

Sean Miller
and the Entire
Housekeeping
Team



Campus Enterprises

Joy Pressley
Jamal Featherstone
Cynthia Beasley

Preeminence 2030

GOAL 1: Transformative Engagement

- *Create partnerships and solutions that advance the human condition*

GOAL 2: Leadership and Innovation

- *Develop engaged global thought leaders and innovators*

GOAL 3: Performance Metrics

- *Optimize human and physical capital to drive elite performance and operational excellence*

GOAL 4: Collaborative and Inclusive Culture

- *Foster an environment that values individualities and lived experiences so all are empowered to become their best selves*

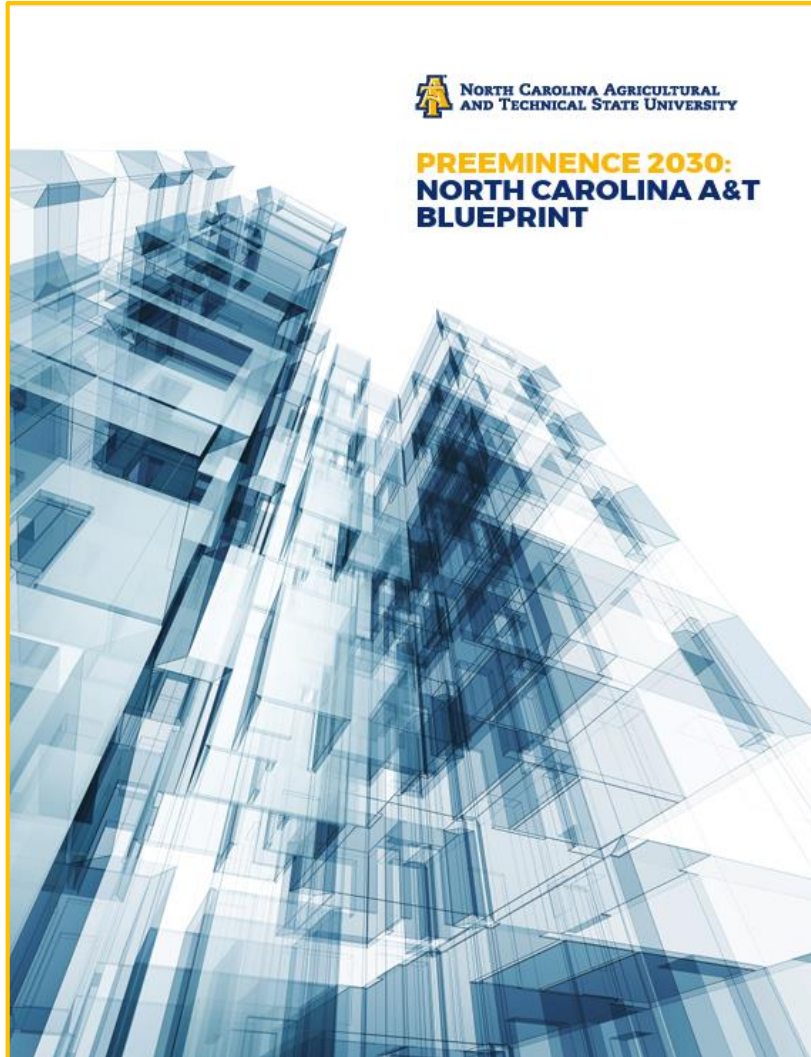
GOAL 5: Responsive Scholarship and Impact

- *Create partnerships and solutions that advance the human condition*

Created in 2022-23 in a campus-wide effort



Approved by the
A&T Board of
Trustees and the
UNC System Board
of Governors in
2023



Now, Next & Beyond

- New framework to strengthen, prioritize implementation of **Preeminence 2030**
- Created to bring **new transparency** to pursuit of strategic plan goals by addressing the omnipresent variable: **time**
- Will help leadership make **focused, orderly choices** over investments of time, funding and human resources
- **Next steps:** Complete planning with Provost, Cabinet for campus rollout this fall

Now

*Strengthening
Our Foundation
(This Semester)*



Student Success: Our Top Priority

- Prioritize holistic support for student achievement:
 - ✓ Improved Graduation Rates
 - ✓ Career Readiness and Job Outcomes
- More scholarships, internships & global opportunities
 - ✓ Imagination Scholars
 - ✓ Meyerhoff-type Program
- More experiential learning
- More professional advising

The AI Initiative – Led by interim CIO Lizbeth Johnson, multi-pronged effort to integrate AI into A&T. Human-centric AI focus.

- Launch of **B.S. in Artificial Intelligence** this fall
- An **AI Cluster of new faculty** begin work this fall
- Hosting the **A&T AI Conference**, Sept. 25-26
- **Professional development** and integration of AI into employee work.
- **Multidisciplinary focus** (Exs: Scott Simkins / Economics, Flourice Richardson / English)



Now



Forever Learning – Organized around the idea that *learning is not an event, but a lifestyle.*

Will change how we see learners – not just as 18-22-year-olds, but as partners who will need A&T over the course of their lifetimes.

- **First initiative:** Engaging not just students, but entire families. Providing coursework for educational advancement and professional development.
- Organized by Academic Affairs and Extended Campus, the initiative will **launch this fall**
- *You'll hear more about the AI Initiative and Forever Learning as we introduce both this fall*

Next

*Investing in High-Growth Opportunities
(This Academic Year)*

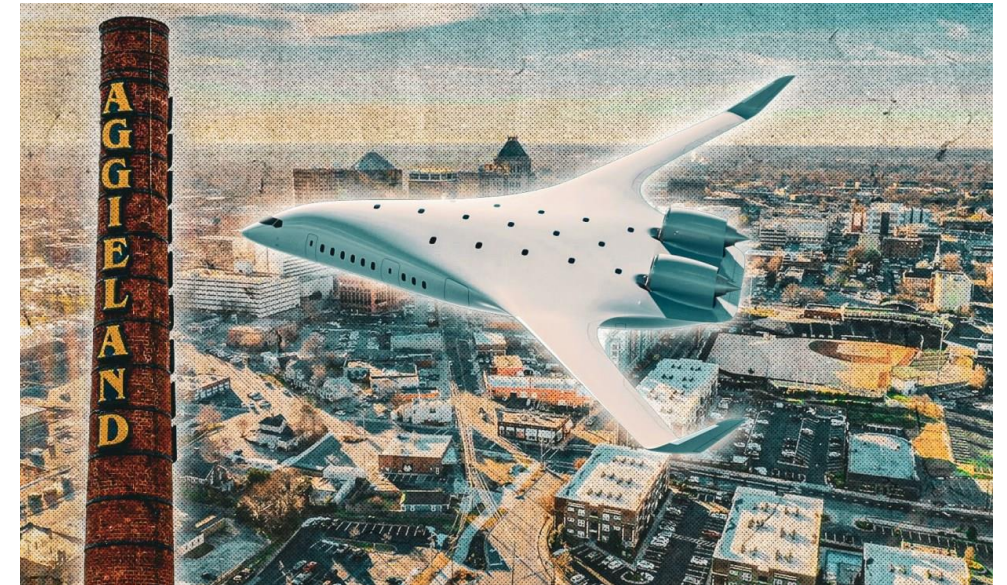


- **Research.** Build capacity via partnerships, strategic hires, new infrastructure. Position A&T as leader in discovery, innovation
- **Programmatic Growth.** Tailor academic offerings to meet needs of traditional *and* lifelong learners
- **Operations & Customer Service**
 - Business processes (Toyota / Aggie Bridge Partnership)
 - Robust research momentum - to R1 and beyond
 - More research support and decentralization and capacity building
 - Associate Dean Gelena Alston, College of Education
 - University Distinguished Professor Salil Desai
 - Research Council
 - Strategic opportunity program reviews for reputation and impact
 - Culture building: more bottom up – stronger sense of community
 - More listening sessions
 - Back to Basics style workshops
 - Organizational culture measures
 - Ombudsperson being considered

- **Technology & Infrastructure:** Modernize IT systems, build AI and high-performance computing capacity and improve digital literacy to support learning, research, and operations. Quantum computing and nuclear
- **Partnership Development:** Recruit expertise and invest in capacity to deepen corporate, government and community engagement.
- **Major Gift Fundraising:** Launch an ambitious, strategic capital campaign that aligns donor passion with institutional goals to realize our long-term vision
- **Bigger Presence in Health and Medicine** (i.e., digital biology, precision medicine, learning science)

Beyond

*Enabling Long-Term Impact
(Greater than 2 Years)*





Beyond

Regional and Global impact

- Corporate and academic partnerships
 - ✓ International presence (i.e., South Africa partnerships)
- Economic development focus & alignment
 - ✓ Local Entrepreneurial Development Opportunities (Campus Hotel, Retirement Living)
- Comprehensive communication strategy for Global Impact
- Strategic plan for Athletics: NIL strategy, greater alumni participation, corp. sponsorship

Thank You!