FALL CONVOCATION

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 | 10 A.M.
RICHARD B. HARRISON AUDITORIUM
**FALL CONVOCATION**
Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 10 a.m.
Presiding: Harold L. Martin Sr., Ph.D. ’74, ’76, Chancellor

**PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL**
UNIVERSITY BAND
Thomas G. Warner Jr., Assistant Director of Band

**WELCOME**
HAROLD L. MARTIN SR., PH.D. ’74, ’76
Chancellor

**MUSICAL SELECTION**
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING*
University Choir
Travis Alexander, Conductor

**GREETINGS**
KIMBERLY GATLING, J.D. ’96
Chair, N.C. A&T Board of Trustees
Chair, N.C. A&T Advisory Council on Alumni Relations

JASMINE AMANIAMPONG
President, N.C. A&T Student Government Association

**MUSICAL SELECTION**
UNIVERSITY CHOIR

**RECOGNITION OF ATHLETES**
JULIETH NWOSU
President, N.C. A&T Student Athlete Advisory Committee

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**
TONYA SMITH-JACKSON, PH.D.
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

**CONVOCATION ADDRESS**
KELI CHRISTOPHER, PH.D. ’98
Founder and CEO, STEM Greenhouse

**ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
CRYSTAL W. BOYCE ’07, ’15
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations

**CLOSING REMARKS**
CHANCELLOR MARTIN

**MUSICAL SELECTION**
ALMA MATER**
University Choir

**RECESSIONAL**
UNIVERSITY BAND

* Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson and music by J. Rosamond Johnson
** Lyrics by Susan B. Dudley and music by Charles E. Stewart
KELI CHRISTOPHER is the founder and chief executive officer of the STEM Greenhouse, an organization she founded in 2014 to prepare children of color for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The STEM Greenhouse specializes in fun and hands-on STEM programs for students in grades K-12. Her organization currently serves over 600 youth in Grand Rapids, Michigan, through after school, in school and summer programming. In 2021, STEM Greenhouse was selected by Sony as one of 10 organizations in the nation to receive the Create Action grant, part of Sony’s broader social justice efforts to support people in underserved communities by celebrating and amplifying the efforts of local, community-based nonprofit organizations.

Christopher graduated as valedictorian from Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids and was accepted into the Agricultural Engineering program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1994. After graduating from N.C. A&T, she pursued her master’s and doctoral degrees in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She became the first Black person to receive a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Illinois. Christopher has worked as an engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kent County Conservation District.

She has served as the National President of Alpha Epsilon Honor Society for Agricultural Engineers and currently serves on the board of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. Christopher has also been recognized with a Brilliance Award in the Social Change Agent category from West Michigan Woman magazine (2020), received the Malinda Sapp Legacy Award from the Grand Rapids Symphony (2021) and received the Nolan Groce Business Leadership Award from the Urban League of West Michigan (2023).
AWARD RECIPIENTS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
KELI CHRISTOPHER, PH.D. ’98
Founder and CEO, STEM Greenhouse
(Grand Rapids, Michigan)

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
TROY DAWSON ’85, ’87
Vice President of Government Satellite Systems, Boeing
(Arlington, Virginia)

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
PAMELA RICHARDSON WILKS, PH.D. ’97, ’98
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Coppin State University
(Baltimore, Maryland)

JOHN R. AND KATHY R. HAIRSTON COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
LORA CUBBAGE, J.D. ’02
Judge, N.C. Superior Court
(Greensboro, North Carolina)

WILLIE A. DEESE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
BRIAN MOORE, CPA ’07
Partner, BDO USA
(Raleigh, North Carolina)

HONORS COLLEGE
ADERO PAIGE ’05, ’07
Deputy Director, Office of Chief Engineer, Department of Defense
(Northern Virginia)

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
HENRY E. FRYE SR., J.D. ’53
Former Chief Justice, N.C. Supreme Court
(Greensboro, North Carolina)

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
LUCY BAILEY HARDISON ’82, ’86
Project Manager II, Panorama Education
(Snellville, Georgia)
Established in 1891, under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a land-grant, doctoral research university. The Second Morrill Act expanded the nation’s system of land-grant universities to include a historically Black institution in those states where segregation denied minorities access to the land-grant institutions established by the First Morrill Act (1862).

With its current enrollment of 13,885 students, N.C. A&T is the nation’s largest historically Black university. A&T is classified as “high research” by the Carnegie Foundation and is a constituent member of the University of North Carolina System. A&T is known for its leadership in producing graduates in engineering, agriculture and other STEM fields.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (N.C. A&T) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees.

North Carolina A&T State University does not discriminate on the basis of age (40 or older), color, disability, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, National Guard or any other basis protected by law. N.C. A&T is an AA/EEO and ADA compliant institution.

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