



July 26, 2012

Dear NCCU Family:

In Robert Frost's famous poem, "The Road Not Taken," he speaks eloquently about having taken the road less traveled, and in doing so, the difference that it made. Five years ago, I took the road that led me to North Carolina Central University and experienced one of the most fulfilling periods of my extensive career in higher education. As I complete my five-year commitment to my beloved NCCU and prepare to celebrate my 66th birthday, I have made a decision that will carry me into the next phase of my life.

After thoughtful deliberation, I informed UNC President Thomas Ross of my plan to retire from my position effective August 6, 2012. I arrived at this decision after carefully considering how I want to spend the remainder of my professional career helping to ensure the academic success of students served by historically black colleges and universities. I plan to do this by continuing the dialogue created with my publication, "A Call to Action," authored in 2010.

Together, we have developed a comprehensive strategy for enhancing student success and institutional effectiveness. Once this strategy is fully implemented, I believe it will enable NCCU to emerge as one of the best public comprehensive institutions in the country. I am certain that now is an excellent time to pass the baton to a new chancellor who can carry out the strategy. It is my hope that you will continue to embrace the mission of the university enthusiastically and with a spirit of collaboration and collegiality.

My service to NCCU will never cease and I will always be part of the Eagle family. I am grateful for the support that I have received throughout my tenure, as well as the friendships formed and countless accomplishments we have achieved together.

With Eagle Pride,

Chancellor Charlie Nelms