

# City of Fayetteville Fire Department

## Development of a Partnership

Fayetteville began using study circles in the late 90's. Through the city's Human Relations Department and Fayetteville United, facilitators were trained to facilitate study circles in 1998. In 1999 the two organizations hosted a community-wide round of study circles. Fayetteville Fire Department's Chief, Benny Nichols was fortunate enough to serve as facilitator for one of these groups. Of the recommendations presented by his group, one particularly weighed on his mind. The group recommended that "institutions should develop mentoring programs through public policy" to help prepare minority youth for the future.

With this issue in mind Chief Nichols embarked on an idea that would help meet the needs stated by citizens as well as recognized needs of Fayetteville Fire Department. Those needs included:

- a.) To enhance fire protection in the areas adjacent to Fayetteville State University,
- b.) Improve methods to recruit and train under represented members of the community as firefighters
- c.) To embrace career development in the fields of fire science and public administration

Nichols proposed to City Manager, Roger Stancil that the City of Fayetteville form partnerships with Fayetteville State University in order to achieve the identified needs. Although all supported the concept, several factors slowed movement of the idea. However, in 2003 all pieces of the puzzle began to fall in place. Conversations between Mr. Stancil and Chancellor T. J. Bryan lead to more conversation with other key players.

Ultimately, partnerships were developed between the City of Fayetteville, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Technical Community College and E. E. Smith High school. These partnerships have yielded a significant opportunity for the community to assist minorities in career development, mentoring and educational opportunities. As result, Fayetteville Fire Department is building a state of the art station on property leased through Fayetteville State University. The station is designed with classrooms and dormitory style rooms to support programs developed though each partner.

Fayetteville State University is planning a B.S. Degree Program in the field of Fire Science. An AAS degree program in Fire Science developed by Fayetteville Technical Community College will compliment the F.S.U's program. Students attending E.E. Smith High School will have the opportunity to receive college credits by taking Fire Science course through FTCC through the Huskins Program.



Fayetteville Fire Station 14 at F.S.U.