



# BRONCO BEAT ● ● ●

## STAFF SENATE NEWSLETTER

### SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2024

Tiffany Torres, Head of Reference, Charles W. Chesnutt Library

The Staff Senate would like to acknowledge and congratulate all of our staff graduates at Fayetteville State University! #broncoprize



Pictured above from left to right: **Antania Powell**, Office of College Access Programs, MSW; **Sasha Francis**, Bronco One Stop, MBA; **Dondra McMillan**, Advising Center, MBA. Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best

910-672-1144

[rstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:rstearns@uncfsu.edu)

1200 Murchison Rd. Fayetteville, NC

910-672-1325

[jlstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlstearns@uncfsu.edu)



# SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2024



Pictured above from left to right: CIAA Commissioner, **Jacqie McWilliams-Parker**; **Jaylyn Robinson**, Admissions, MS Criminal Justice; **Josephine Moore**, Admissions, MS Criminal Justice. Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best



Spring 2024 Commencement



SeQuenna Pennix, Academic Affairs

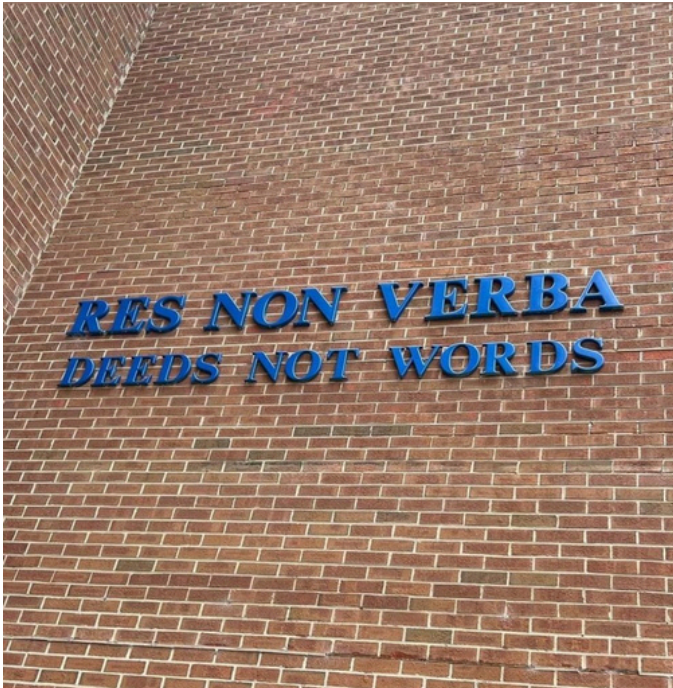
📞 910-672-1144  
📞 910-672-1325

✉️ [rstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:rstearns@uncfsu.edu)  
✉️ [jlstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlstearns@uncfsu.edu)

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# STAFF TOWNHALL: A PROMISE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



**Tiffany Torres, Head of Reference, Charles W. Chesnutt Library**

**Res Non Verba** ... “Deeds not words”. The statement itself being contradictory in nature. However, words give meaning, guidance and sometimes a promise to action.

Chancellor Darrell T. Allison addressed Fayetteville State University’s Staff focusing on, “*The Power of WHY & WE*” during the Staff Townhall boasting a platform of a “**Culture of Support**”. He shared how much progress the university has made in just the last fiscal year. Enrollment is up, buildings are going up and retention is key! Promises of sunny days out on the lawn with a cup of Starbucks while checking emails seemed to please some of the crowd.



Staff Town Hall April 19, 2024

During the second half of the townhall session, staff were given the opportunity to address Chancellor Allison directly. Concerns ranged from inquiries on raises, parking issues, increasing workloads and what was described in the local news circuits from Faculty on campus, as a “*Culture of intimidation and fear*” at FSU.

While the improvements on campus are clearly a positive to our growing university, staff continue to want to see changes in the work culture and environment where they dedicate so much of their skills, time and effort.

Chancellor Allison made a promise to staff at the conclusion of the townhall to ensure a “Culture of Support”, that staff will begin to witness these changes as the year progresses.

As **WE** wait to witness the deeds of others, remember **WHY** we should also show in our own actions that fostering a supportive work environment is on us all. It is within our power!



## STAFF SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- **President/Chair:** Roni D. Stearns, MSHR
- **Vice-President/Vice-Chair:** Jermaine L. Stearns
- **Secretary:** Dorothy Cannon-Brown
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Melissa Wells
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Claudette Fuller
- **Parliamentarian:** Sylvester Washington
- **Membership Coordinator:** Chaniece Hudson
- **Web Coordinator:** Tiffany Torres

[View Staff Senate Roster](#)

910-672-1144

910-672-1325

[rstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:rstearns@uncfsu.edu)

[jlstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlstearns@uncfsu.edu)

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# STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK ACTIVITIES: ICE CREAM & KARAOKE SOCIAL

**Jocelyn Clay, Program Assistant, FSU Learning center**

Our recent Ice Cream and Karaoke Social Day, held on Fried Chicken Wednesday, May 15, 2024, was a success! Hosted by the FSU Staff Senate in the Rudolph Jones Student Center Amphitheater, the event was a perfect blend of fun, food, and fantastic performances, bringing together our dedicated staff for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

The event kicked off at 12:00 PM with a variety of ice cream flavors and staff members indulged in everything from classic vanilla and chocolate to more adventurous options like strawberry crunch and chocolate drumsticks!

The highlight of the day was most definitely the karaoke. We had one our very own Broncos, DJ Tido on the turntables and FSU Staff members showcased their vocal talents with a mix of solo performances and group sing-alongs. Standout performances included a show-stopping rendition of Jazmine Sullivan's "Bust Your Windows" and a lovely rendition of "Hey DJ" by Zhane. The sun was shining, and the hype from the audience was filling the air after each performance!

The event was more than just a chance to enjoy delicious treats and music; it was a celebration of our FSU community spirit. Colleagues from different departments mixed and mingled while sharing laughs and creating lasting memories.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all FSU faculty/staff who attended and participated. Your enthusiasm and support made the event truly special. A big shoutout goes to the Events Planning Committee, members of the FSU Staff Senate, and all volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event possible. It was a reminder of the strong bonds that make FSU such a special place to work!



Health and Wellness Fair



Ice Cream & Karaoke Social

910-672-1144

910-672-1325

[rstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:rstearns@uncfsu.edu)

[jlstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlstearns@uncfsu.edu)

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# STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

## Dwane Hodges, Budget Officer, Sponsored Research & Programs

The Staff Appreciation Week Award Luncheon was an amazing event this year. Held on Thursday, August 16, 2024, in the Rudolph Jones Student Center, the event was a collaborative production between the Staff Senate, Office of Human Resources, and the Chancellor's Office. As the emcee for the affair, staff Senator Adrian Williams brought his usual energy, enthusiasm, and engagement to the program. His combination of humor and insight formed an entertaining thread that wove all the aspects of the program together like a warm blanket. The Luncheon was kicked off by a powerful prayer by Staff Senator, Dr. Arneschia Moody. We almost had church in there!

The Longevity awards were an inspiring part of the program, as always. The Office of Human Resources honored those who have served incremental five-year anniversaries at FSU, from those who have completed their first five years of service in 2024, to those who have been here for more than 30 years. These honorees included several FSU Faculty, who were also in attendance. When it was announced that Dr. Denise Payton and Ms. Rachael Johnson have provided forty years of service to the University and the state of North Carolina, the Luncheon crowd erupted in applause. This level of commitment is something that many in attendance aspire to achieve one day, but that everyone in attendance share awe and admiration for. Congratulations to Ms. Johnson and Dr. Payton and thank you for your service.

In addition to the Longevity awards, Human Resources presented two service awards. The service awards are based on nominations submitted to the Office of Human Resources in several categories, and the nominees are voted on by a committee of university staff. This year's award winner for Customer Service was Mrs. Shenetta Dudley. Mrs. Dudley has provided excellent customer service to the FSU family for 28 years. This year's nominees for Employee of the Year were: Shenetta Adams-Dudley, Tyreece Brown, Mary Bush, Essence Floyd, Dwane Hodges, Josephine Moore, Gailletta Suttles-Battle, Dylan Turlington, Jan-Jee Wells, and Adrian Williams. Voted Employee of the Year was Tyrese Brown, the Head Coach of FSU's championship winning Women's Basketball Team. Congratulations to Mrs. Dudley and Coach Brown.  
*Continue to page 6...*



Pictured above from left to right: Staff Senate President, **Roni Stearns**; Employee of the Year, **Tyreece Brown**; Staff Senate Vice President, **Jermaine Stearns**; Mr. & Ms. Staff Senate, **Dr. Claudette Fuller**, **James McDuffie**; Former Staff Senate President, **Pat Flanigan**. Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best



Pictured above from left to right: Coordinator for Adult Learners, Transfer & Military Students, **SeQuenna Pennix**; Staff Senate President, **Roni Stearns**; Mr. Staff Senate, **James McDuffie**. Photo Credit: Ezekiel Best

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# STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

## Dwane Hodges, Budget Officer, Sponsored Research & Programs

A new addition to this year's Luncheon was the presentation of "Presidential Gavels" by the Staff Senate to the current and past presidents of the FSU Staff Senate. The gavels were embossed with the names of the president along with their term of office. The presidents in who received gavels were Byron Riddick, Patricia Flanigan, Dwane Hodges, Michael McKinnon, Dr. Claudette Fuller, and of course, Roni Stearns. For next year's award luncheon, the Staff Senate will be inviting the past presidents who were not in attendance to return and be presented their own gavels.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the food. There is no other way to say it except, Aramark put their foot in it. The entire meal was excellent, as was the service. The Administration, Faculty, and Staff in attendance could not say enough about how wonderful the food was. Our thanks to Nikeshia Pointe, Charlene Wright, and the entire Aramark Staff. Additional thanks go to Nicholle Young Saint Leone, who provided her usual excellent slide show of the FSU Staff, and Giftin Ochako, the DJ for the affair, who had us dancing in our seats.

A highlight of this year's event was the inspirational speech by Senator/Pastor Jermaine Stearns. Pastor Stearns brought a message of overcoming adversity through faith, being steadfast in your service even when you are alone in that service, and the power of a having a support system that can speak life into you in times of darkness. His personal story was one that was identifiable by all. Also, despite his hectic schedule, FSU Chancellor, Darrell Allison, was able to be at the event and offered his own words of inspiration, thanks, and support for FSU Staff. He even promised to make the affair bigger and better in the future. We definitely look forward to that.



Staff Senator, Master of Ceremonies, **Adrian Williams**  
Photo Credit: *Ezekiel Best*.



Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Photo Credit: *Ezekiel Best*.

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# STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON: VP'S HIGHLIGHT

**Jermaine Stearns, Staff Senate Vice President, Financial Aid**

Staff Appreciation was one of my highlights of the academic school year. It was a moment to sit in the seat of taking a breather from the everyday duties and responsibilities of being an employee. The food was amazing, the environment was “hype” and overall, I was able to enjoy the smiles, laughter, and the interaction with many of our staff members that I don’t get to see much throughout the duration of the year.

It was my honor to serve as the guest speaker for the event and I must say I was NERVOUS, but my colleagues encouraged and really supported my efforts.

Staff senate lunch is more than food! It’s togetherness that our campus needs and I’m excited about the next level of not only our staff senate and staff luncheon but I’m looking forward to a stronger greater togetherness.



Staff Senate Vice President, **Jermaine Stearns**. Photo Credit: *Ezekiel Best*.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Photo Credits: *Ezekiel Best*.

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# **DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!**

**Chanecia Hudson, Administrative Support Associate, Public Safety**

Here is a story of the Wrong family; Jon B, Goyng, Steele, and Ben Wrong. All of them are students at the university. Ben Wrong the eldest, a senior; Steele Wrong a junior; Goyng Wrong a sophomore, and the subject of this story is Jon B. Wrong.

Jon, a freshman, is excited about his second semester, as he can finally bring a car to the university! He had read the Parking Ordinance and the Parking Rules brochure throughout the entire fall semester and was ready to get his permit.

However, his brothers, who were experienced drivers and university students, said, "Jon B., why are you doing all that? Let us tell you how to park without a permit." Goyng Wrong told him to park between two large cars in the faculty lot, he did that and received a citation. Steele Wrong said he should park in the lot behind the Seabrook by the fence, and he will be ok. Jon B. did but got another citation. Ben Wrong told all his younger brothers that they were doing it all wrong. Ben Wrong told Jon B. to park in the busiest lot where cars are always coming and going, just like he does, and assured him that he would never get caught. Jon B. Wrong already had two citations but listened to his oldest brother because he is a senior and never had any citations, or so he thought.

Poor Jon B. Wrong, he now has \$200 worth of citations and a \$150 boot. He called Goyng, Steele, and Ben Wrong to no avail. They had neither any money nor any more advice to give. Jon B. Wrong called his mother, Never Wrong.

Ms. Never Wrong asked Jon B. "Why didn't you buy the permit as you were instructed?" Jon told his mother what his brothers had told him. Ms. Never Wrong shrieked and told Jon B. Wrong how all his brothers had boots and permits!

Jon B. Wrong learned a valuable lesson! Never listen to those who are wrong!

To legally park at Fayetteville State University, you must have a purchased parking permit! Go to [Fayetteville State University - Parking Portal \(t2hosted.com\)](https://t2hosted.com) or use the QR code below.



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# BRONCOS ON THE ROAD!

**Adrian Williams, Academic Support Specialist, Bronco One Stop**

The Marching Bronco Xpress, better known as the MBX, set out bright and early Monday morning February 26, 2024, to begin what was an 8-school recruitment tour in conjunction with going to support our Men's and Women's basketball teams in Baltimore, Maryland. A portion of the MBX staff and a select number of students loaded up the Holiday Tours motor coach at 7 am to get started before the hustle and bustle of the day.

Exploring talent across states, the CIAA High School Recruitment Tour attending schools ranging from Virginia to DC to Maryland. The schools attended included Kings Fork High School, Suitland High School, Oxon Hill High School, Eastern Senior High School, Dr. Henry Wise Jr. High School, Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Frank W. Ballou High School, and New Town High School.

Additionally, the MBX was one of the premiere performances that folks are still raving about from the CIAA Band Fest exhibition Friday, March 1, 2024. One of the key points that was made during the performance was when the announcer stated, "The Transfer Portal is Now Open!" In essence, if you are a student who is looking to attend an affordable institution where one can thrive as a holistic student, then Family State University (FSU) is for you!



**WANT TO BE FEATURED AS  
A BRONCO ON THE ROAD?**

**SCAN THE QR CODE!**

910-672-1144  
910-672-1325

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[jlstearns@uncfsu.edu](mailto:jlstearns@uncfsu.edu)

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# STAY INFORMED!

Visit the [Staff Senate Website](#) to get updates on upcoming events, highlights from past events, Staff Senate meeting records and opportunities to serve with any (or all!) of the committees listed below!

## STAFF SENATE COMMITTEES

Executive  
Ways & Means  
Election  
Bylaws  
Legislative Advisory  
Event Planning  
Communications and Publications  
Hospitality  
Education



Staff Senate Past President, **Dwane Hodges**; Staff Senate President, **Roni Stearns**.

## STAFF SENATE MEETINGS

The Staff Senate hold monthly meetings in the Board Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Charles W. Chesnutt Library and digitally on Teams. Meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the calendar month from 2-4 pm.

If you would like a Teams invite sent to your email please contact the Staff Senate Secretary, [Melissa Wells](#).



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