

## **NCCU Grad Student Travels 48,000 Miles**

Can you imagine driving twelve hours one day a week to earn a master's degree? Melissa Davis did. Davis, who lives in Georgia, has driven approximately 48,000 miles to receive her master's degree in middle grade education from North Carolina Central University (NCCU). Davis was one of 780 students who received their degrees during the commencement exercises at NCCU on Saturday, May 6.

When asked why travel to NCCU to get a master's degree when other universities are closer, Davis, with a smile, stated that NCCU has the best School of Education.

"There are universities that are within five miles of my home," said Davis. "However, those universities as well as universities that I researched that offer online classes I felt didn't or wouldn't provide me with the skills I felt I need to be the best teacher I could be. I knew NCCU could. For example, I could leave class on Thursday and could immediately implement what I learned with my students in class on Friday."

Davis, who is a fifth grade teacher at Green Acres Elementary School in Smyrna, Georgia, received her teacher certification from NCCU when she lived in Raleigh.

"My professors were wonderful," said Davis. "They really prepared you to be a good teacher. They brought the best out of you. My professors motivated me constantly to reach higher. If my papers were a "B," they would meet with me to discuss how I could make it an "A."

Davis further stated how the NCCU School of Education held events that provided teachers with valuable resources such as the Teacher Education Summit.

"The Teacher Education Summit was wonderful," said Davis. It was like a revival for educators. After the summit, I felt more satisfied with what I am doing in life, helping children for life. This kind of event is just one example of what they (NCCU School of Education) I would do to make sure teachers will be the best teacher they could be. Dean Steppe-Jones and the faculty are to be commended."

According to Davis, a wife and a mother of a 11 year old, 9 year old and 5 five year old, stated that the financial support of her family was a blessing. "First of all, I thank God for getting me to NCCU and back home safe and sound," said Davis. "Also, I would have not made it if it wasn't for the support of my husband, my three children, my parents, my in-laws and family and friends."

According to Davis, during her four-year commute, she was late to class only once due to a storm.