



NCCU Alumni.Org



Richard D. Smith
President, NCCU Alumni Association 2006-08



Greeting my Fellow Eagles. My name is Richard DeWitt Smith. I am running for President of the NCCU Alumni Association, Inc. for the term 2008 – 2010 and I need your support!

As current your National President, it will be an honor and a privilege to continue the awesome programs the association has embarked upon for the past few years. I believe that we are at a point in time that we can take the association to the next level. With your support, we can ensure that the association reclaims its rightful place as the Flagship National Alumni Association. Much progress has been made towards this goal, but there is more work to be done. With your assistance we can continue the program efforts that are underway.

First, I think that it is important that you know how I arrived at this point in time. “I was a first generation college student when I walked the sloping hills and verdant greens of NCCU”. I came to NCCU with high hopes and dreams of greatness. “I was not a scholar by traditional terms when I arrived on the **“yard”**, but my professors nurtured me, motivated me and I graduated with academic honors”. For me, NCCU was a beacon of hope and a guiding light. I received my bachelor’s degree at NCCU in political science in 1981, with a concentration in public administration and then went on to earn a master’s of public administration at the University of Maryland in 1982 and continue to enjoy a productive professional career. I credit NCCU and its faculty and staff for developing me academically so that I would be competitive in the greater community.

Since taking the helm, we have experienced numerous program successes such as establishing a vision, mission and objectives statement that compliments NCCU’s over-arching mission statement, increased annual membership, increased younger alumni participation in leadership positions by 42%; established an alumni web site and e-Newsletter, which have led to greater communication with our alumni across the country and around the world, retired past debts, revised the By-Laws & Constitution, implemented efficient and effective fiscal management practices; re-established critical relationships with key components of the University, e.g., Office of Institutional Advancement, the NCCU Foundation, the Office of Alumni Relations; established a key collaboration with the Athletics Department to launch a joint membership campaign and achieved an operating budget surplus for two consecutive years.

I am running for re-election to continue these efforts and others underway to increase the alumni membership, increase fundraising, increase student recruitment and special projects. Strategic short-term and long-term initiatives will be continued to connect with younger graduates through the Eagle Outreach Committee, the Association’s e-Newsletter, email blasts and the Association’s website. For the next term we will implement a platform that will promote and focus upon **“Student Recruitment, Retention and Placement”**.

I am asking that you vote for me so that we can continue the great work of the association and face the changes and challenges ahead to achieve a cultural transformation that is required to sustain our Flagship Alumni Association in the days, months and years to come.

Thank you for your support over the past two years and the years to come. Feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with me at richard.smith@nccualumni.org.