

## Counseling Center – Updates

1. NC A&T State University's Counseling Services and the Psychology Department in collaboration with the NC Psychological Association hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Statewide Undergraduate Psychology Conference, Saturday, October 29, 2011 in the General Classroom Building from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The conference provided information on working in the various fields of psychology, getting into graduate school, and information about the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Over 220 people were in attendance at this conference.
2. Counseling Services hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual HBCU Mental Health Counseling Center Conference on Thursday, November 3 through Saturday, November 5, 2011 on campus in the Memorial Student Union. The conference was designed for mental health professionals, researchers, educators, and students to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas that specially address the mental health needs of today's college students. There were 10 HBCUs in attendance and 75 registered guests.
3. Morehouse School of Medicine received funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to establish the HBCU-Center For Excellence (CFE) in Behavioral Health. Dr. Vivian Barnette, Director of Counseling Center, has been selected to serve on its Steering Committee. Her expertise and active participation on the Steering Committee will contribute significantly to the goals of Center for Excellence in *Behavioral Health*. The Steering Committee will provide guidance, direction, and assistance to ensure equitable and consistent implementation of the goals and objectives of the Center for Excellence. The HBCU-CFE is convening a Grantee/Steering Committee and the 2012 Dr. Lonnie E. Mitchell Behavioral Health Policy Academy Planning meeting has been scheduled for November 30, 2011 to December 1, 2011. The meetings will take place at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s office in Washington, D.C. The HBCU-CFE will cover all expenses for Dr. Barnette's travel (i.e., airfare, hotel, etc.) for this event.
4. Counseling Services received a mini-grant of \$5,000 (2011 – 2012) from North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Mental Health, for their Problem Gambling Outreach, Prevention, and Awareness Proposal. This project is designed to raise awareness of concerns associated with gambling and other addictive behaviors.
5. Counseling Center received mini-grant: \$7,500 (12/2011-7/2012) --The Aggie PALS (Promoting, Advocating, and Linking to Services) project which will serve to combat the stigma that surrounds mental illness and other mental health problems by breaking the silence, secrecy, myths, and ignorance that creates barriers to seeking help. This project will address some of the difficulties described above by providing programming to increase behavioral health awareness, training, screening and

referral, as well as create an undergraduate internship site for students majoring in psychology, social work, nursing, and other behavioral health professions. The project aims to raise the awareness of students, faculty and school administrators about serious mental illness and other mental health issues on this campus. The project strives to provide hope to all students who are struggling with their mental health. Aggie PALS believes that despite a student's mental challenges he or she can be academically successful and become productive citizens.