Honors @ NCA&T
Past Successes & The Future

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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
Current State of Honors
Entrance Requirements

- 1160 combined math and verbal SAT/26 ACT (Year 2)
- 3.75 high school GPA
  - New admission standards as of AY 2012-2013
  - Raising standards in keeping with Preeminence 2020
  - Prior requirements 1050SAT/23ACT 3.75 GPA
- Roughly 600 students in honors
Current Structure

- **24 Hours of Honors Credit**
  - 18 hours of honors credit in contract or honors course form and 6 hours of lecture attendance
  - Students must attend 2 Lecture and 2 Cultural Events/semester
  - 10 hours service work per semester

- **Honors Courses**
  - Smaller sizes
  - More discussion
  - Develop critical communication skills in writing, speech
  - Critical engagement of material

- **Honors Seminars**
  - Interdisciplinary or more deeply focused (Forgiveness, Humor, History of Women, Reclaiming Democracy)
  - Encourage research and engagement of material at a higher level
Progress Towards Preeminence 2020

- Scholarship and Fellowship applications are increasing in number
- Honors E-Board restarted
- Green Wall Installation and related NCHC Presentation
- Text in Community Support
- Featured Campus Representatives

- But Let’s Hear About Honors From Our Students
Chandell Stone Class of 2012, Spring
Math Education: Bronx, NY

- Math Ed BA
- MA in Education at Harvard (partial scholarship)
- Fulbright Alternate
- "The Honors program was a vital piece of my academic career at A&T. The mentoring, networking, and leadership opportunities afforded to me were invaluable. Each person in the honors program staff took a vested interest in my personal development as a student and as a servant leader, challenging me to be greater and think bigger."
Emmanuel Johnson: Spring Class of 2013
Computer Engineering: New Brunswick, New Jersey

- A&T’s First Fulbright Winner
- MA Candidate University of Birmingham, UK
- Not originally in Honors
- "The Honors Program at North Carolina A&T has been extremely beneficial in my overall development. The lecture series, GRE Prep courses and the staff has been helpful in preparing me for what lies ahead.”
Amaze Lusompa: Spring Class of 2012
Economics: Charlotte, NC

- A&T’s first ever National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
- The honor’s program generated additional opportunities for me to grow outside of the classroom and to expand my not only my knowledge but my perspective. The honor's program also has staff that gives great support. The feedback I got from the staff during my NSF Graduate Research Fellowship application process played a significant role in me winning.
Nadine Jansen: Spring Class of 2014  
Mathematics Major: Stoneville, NC

- A&T’s first Goldwater Undergraduate Fellowship Award Winner
- By end of year two had exhausted all our math offerings
- “I can say without a doubt that my overall college experience would not be as rewarding as it has been if I had not been a member of the honors program. If it wasn't for Ms. Whiteside, I never would of even known of the Goldwater scholarship and with her encouragement and advice I was fortunate enough to win it. Dr. Mike encouraged me to take more advanced classes outside of my university to make me more competitive for graduate school.”
Kashawn Little: Spring Class of 2014
Social Work/Philosophy Minor: New London, NC

- Honors E-Board President
- Social Work major/philosophy minor
- Invited presenter to Japan/DC/Canada
- Honors Scholarship Fund creator

“The Honors program looked out for me. They gave me opportunities for growth, pushed me, and supported me as I grew. My way to give back was to restart the E-Board and create the Scholarship Fund.”
Kashian Scrivens: Spring Class of 2014
English/African-American Studies: New Jersey

- 2013-14 ETS Presidential Scholarship for HBCU Student (1 of 8)
- Assessment Research Presentation NCHC 2013
- "Being an honors student has placed me in a position to put my best foot forward academically. The honors program has been another outlet for me to network. The staff has been nothing less than exceptional, and they have looked out for me in ways I could not have imagined."
Kayla Harris: Spring Class of 2016
Biology/Urban Horticulture: Richmond, VA

- Bringing Farmer’s Market to A&T
- First Urban & Community Horticulture major
- “Being a part of honors is one of the best aspects and experiences here at NCA&T. Honors provides so much support and love and I could not imagine my college experience any other way.”
Aggie Mentoring Program (AMP)

- Joint program with Student Affairs, CAE, and Honors
- Raises the GPA of involved, at-risk students by an average of .5
- Raised the number of credits earned on average 1.5 hours
- This improves retention and progress towards degree
- Employs Honors students
  » Crucially important for increased funding and Honors student retention
- Project HEAR (Helping Enhance Aggie Retention)
  » Outgrowth of AMP
Deionta Sutton- AMP Success Story

Biology: Spring Class of 2015: Raleigh, NC

- Began A&T as AMP mentee
- Became AMP Mentor and Honors student 2012-13
- “This program has worked wonders for me as far as networking, learning, and molding myself into the man I want to be. From Ms. Whiteside flooding the honors Facebook page with scholarships, to Mr. Hairston providing me an opportunity to work for my university as an Aggie Mentoring Coach; the honors program is somewhere I can call home. Dr. Mike always has information or a wonderful story to share that will provide to my benefit somehow.”
Honors In the Community

- ALD and Hampton Book Program
- Rain Barrels and Child Development Lab
- A&T Farmer’s Market
  » September 21st, 11am-1pm Inaugural Meeting
  » Curriculum Drive in AG (Sodexho, Student Affairs, Honors, AG)
- AKM World Water Project
- Text In Community Group Discussion Leaders, Welcome Week
- 2 out of 4 of past SGA presidents were Honors
- Represent A&T at BoV, BoG meetings
What Honors Gets Students: The Numbers

- Recent research beginning with the 2007 cohort shows
  - Honors students progress towards degree quicker
  - Have a higher GPA
  - More earned hours per hours taken
  - Than ability and score matched comparison groups

- These findings are consistent with other honors programs across the country

- Honors and Co-curricular activities (Cundall, 2013. JNCHC Winter)
  - Co-curricular activities, meaningful faculty and peer interactions, and clear expectations all increase retention and overall student success

- Date sets available upon request.
Challenges Moving Forward

- Course offerings are scant especially at the upper level
  - Largely students complete honors coursework through contracts
  - Weakest form of honors work; more burdensome on professors; less quality control

- Middle College Students/STEM Early College
  - Students increasingly attending with a large number of transfer credits
  - No choice but to do contracts

- No appreciable thesis work
  - Grad school recruiters all comment on the need for students with thesis experience
Successes Moving Forward

- Assessment of Lectures
  » Scholarship of Teaching and Learning presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Conference (NCHC) w/ Kashian Scrivens (New Orleans, 11-13)

- Aggie Mentoring Program (AMP)
  » Honors reaching out and helping A&T students

- Increased honors student engagement

- Faculty are increasing their interest in teaching courses

- Founder’s Scholarship

- Farmer’s Market

- Continued Support of TiC
P.S. Jamae Lucas: Spring 2015
Graphic Communications: New jersey

- Created one of the best posters for 2012 Social Entrepreneurship contest
- Created and designed the Honors Brochure
- “The Honors Program has honestly done more for me than any other organization on campus. They have accomplished what other groups strive for, and that is creating a community. Honors is my second family.”