



A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Colleagues:

Summer is rolling right along! It's hard to believe these long days are already getting shorter, and the fall semester will open in about six weeks.

The legislature just wrapped up an encouraging budget process, and General Administration welcomed a brand new slate of UNC BOG members at an orientation session earlier this week. We're building strong momentum around the strategic plan, and I look forward to returning from a quick summer vacation with renewed energy for the work ahead. Wishing you and your family a great July 4th and some rest and relaxation over the holiday!

On the Road

June kicked off with a trip to UNC Wilmington for the Faculty and Staff Assembly Retreat. From my very first days on the job, I've been impressed with the caliber of people we have at every level in the University, and I always appreciate the chance to hear directly from the folks who carry out the teaching, research, and public service that define our mission. Their feedback and insight have been invaluable in shaping our policy agenda, and I'm thrilled to have such thoughtful partners in our Faculty and Staff Assembly.

I made a quick trip to Washington for the inaugural meeting of the [Higher Ed Learning Advocates](#) Board of Directors. It's a great group that's trying to refocus the federal higher ed agenda around consensus issues of affordability, measuring outcomes, and making policy more flexible for a more diverse group of students.

Back in Raleigh, I spoke at the [Hunt Institute's Legislative Dinner](#), a great opportunity to thank our lawmakers and build momentum for our strategic plan. I think the message is resonating, based on the solid support we received in this year's budget cycle. More on that below.

Finally, I traveled back to DC for [Stand-To](#), a national veterans event hosted by my good friends at the George W. Bush Presidential Center. I was fortunate to share the stage with Jared Lyon, President and CEO of Student Veterans of America; Admiral Bill McRaven, Chancellor of The

University of Texas System; and Kent Syverud, Chancellor and President of Syracuse University. We talked about the value that veterans bring to our institutions and what kind of programs and policies could do more to bolster veterans education.

Jones Street Update

The budget just passed by the General Assembly is one of the strongest for the University in years. There's no flex cut in the upcoming fiscal year, and lawmakers made a major investment in NC Promise, fully funding the program (\$51M in 2018-19) in a strong show of support for college affordability.

Other highlights include:

- Fully funded enrollment growth (\$46.6 M in FY 2017-18 and \$94.7 M in FY 2018-19)
- Investment in data modernization to improve institutional performance (\$1.0 M in FY 2017-18 and \$9.0 M in FY 2018-19)
- Additional funds for the Research Opportunity Initiative (\$1.0M in FY 2017-18)
- Funds for Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund (\$1.0 M in FY 2017-18)
- Stabilization funding for ECSU (\$2.8 M FY 2017-18 and \$2.0 M in FY 2018-19)
- Funds to support doctoral programs at NC A&T (\$2.5 M in both years of the biennium)
- Fully funded building reserves (\$751 K in FY 2017-18 and \$5.9 M in FY 2018-19)
- Funds for salary increases for University employees (\$1,000 per employee)

A big thank you to our external affairs team for the long hours and hard work they put in over the past few months.

GA Staffing Update

We have had several new hires over the past month, and I hope you will join me in welcoming our new colleagues to the team:

- **Terence Baker**, Banner Support Technical Analyst, Information Technology
- **Karen Franke**, K-12 Program Assistant, NCSEAA
- **Cameron Howell**, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Strategy and Policy
- **Cory Keevan**, Digital Marketing Specialist, UNC TV
- **Colleen Nulf**, Office Manager, UNC TV
- **Lou Owoc**, (Spangler) Front Desk Administrative Support, President's Office
- **Christopher Resh**, (Spangler) Front Desk Administrative Support, President's Office

Nose for News

A little beach reading for those of you heading off on your summer getaways:

- Take a look at [the column](#) I penned for the *North State Journal* on our strategic plan and our goal of giving every North Carolinian the chance to rise.
- This ran back in May, but I just saw this great [piece by a student journalist](#) in the NC State *Technician* on how rural students can support their hometown communities.
- One of our own has been [named to lead](#) the National Cancer Institute. The appointment of Dr. Ned Sharpless is a recognition of the incredible research talent we've built in medicine and health care.

- Our colleague Andrew Kelly wrote about [innovation](#) in higher education in a well-received piece for AEI.
- The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation awarded a highly competitive [\\$1M grant](#) to UNC-Chapel Hill, part of an ongoing effort to recognize public universities that keep a commitment to serving low-income students in their home states.
- *Inside Higher Ed* took an encouraging look at our [Part-Way Home Program](#) as a national example of how to re-enroll students who left college without a degree. Great to see some recognition for taking on a challenging issue.

As always, keep an eye on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest and greatest from GA and across the UNC system. And please drop me a line if there's something I ought to be reading and thinking about in the days ahead.

