



SPORTS

Former St. Aug's track coach George Williams gets the call.



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Senior Spotlight: Ana Melendez, Heritage High School

The Triangle Tribune

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St. Aug's president affirms fall semester opening

By Alex Bass
alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - Marcus Burgess put his hands to service, literally, in Tuesday's sweltering heat. Saint Augustine's University's interim president, clad in SAU logo-bearing blue and gray business casual attire, paused long enough from working on the Oakwood Avenue campus' water line to rearticulate a message concerning



Burgess

the upcoming fall semester. "Aug. 19 will be our first day of class - in person," Burgess said. Burgess knows, too, the university must complete an accreditation arbitration process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools vital to institutional operations. Additional information about SAU's accreditation, he said, will be available July 22. Burgess' words, while few, offered a unique, upbeat perspective for an almost entirely shuttered campus. The university's

recognizable information booth at the campus entrance, still, has a welcoming attendant, who affirmed fewer than two handfuls of people are working on campus. State Street entrances to Emery Gymnasium and the George Williams Athletics Complex parking lots (and facilities) are closed with locked gates. St. Aug's website advertises an online summer session (June 27 to Aug. 5), along with in-person registration options for next fall. At last academic year's conclusion, nearly 80% of the university's students

received federal financial aid for which nonaccredited institutions are ineligible. Burgess, having been aided by other Falcons staffers, was working his cellphone, too, articulating the need for additional full-time facilities personnel before returning inside for a meeting in the Boyer Building. He sought to reassure those listening on the line's other side that employee compensation payments would be on schedule going forward while still having to attend to past due wages for employees, some who have gone un-



FILE

SAU campus

paid since February. keep the water running -
From July 22 to Aug. 19 literally and figuratively.
and more, the goal is to



COURTESY

Sertrice Shipley of Plan To Action.

Raleigh-based DEI firm continues to build networking community

By Freda Freeman
CORRESPONDENT

Sertrice Shipley, of Apex, continues to build diversity, equity and inclusion in the Triangle by consulting with local businesses and hosting networking events to bring together the DEI community. Shipley, previously co-owner and chief consulting officer of Mattingly Solutions, has branched off and started her own DEI consulting company,

Plan To Action. She also has revamped the former Triangle DEI Practitioners Unite peer networking group, which she started in 2022, renaming it Triangle DEI Community. Between meetings and events, Shipley said DEI practitioners can stay connected, offer support, and share contacts and resources via Google Chat. She said others in the DEI community are also branching out and creating ways to connect. "We aim to foster trust, inclu-

sivity, and collaboration among DEI professionals, empowering them to effect meaningful change and build lasting connections within our field," she said. "It was important to me to have a space where diversity, equity, and inclusion practitioners could come together and share knowledge, celebrate their wins and discuss their struggles; where it could be a free space to be ourselves and

Please see **DEI/2A**

Black Vote, Black Power

Why Black Republicans aren't persuading Black voters

By Keith Boykin
WORD IN BLACK

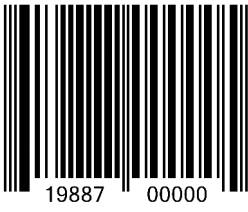
"Black Vote, Black Power," a collaboration between Keith Boykin and Word In Black, examines the issues, the candidates and what's at stake for Black America in the 2024 presidential election. If you want to know why Black people don't vote for Republicans, just look at the Black Republicans. America's top Black Republican, Tim Scott, claims that "woke supremacy is as bad as white supremacy." What on earth is woke supremacy? Scott is so desperate for white approval that he voted against the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, even while three of his white Republican colleagues voted for her. Then there's Byron Donalds, who claimed that "the Black family was together" under Jim Crow. Donalds is one of 26 House Republicans who refused to sign a letter denouncing white supremacy. And he was one of only two Black members of Congress who voted to overturn the 2020 election results, which would have disenfranchised Black voters in Philadelphia, Detroit, Atlanta and other cities. And just in time for Juneteenth, three Black Republicans in the House of Representatives (Donalds, Burgess Owens and Wesley Hunt) voted to restore a racist, Confederate monument at Arlington National Cemetery. Republicans love Black people — who love white people. Scott and Donalds have an excuse, but it's not a good one. They are so desperate to be Trump's running mate that they refuse to upset his base or hold him accountable even after he was convicted of 34 felonies. What Black man with 34 felony convictions gets a pass from Republicans? But one of the most notorious Black Republicans today is North Carolina gubernatorial candidate Mark Robinson. Robinson tells Black people, "nobody owes you anything for slavery," and invokes the history of Black abolitionists and civil rights leaders to excuse white people from accountability. "If anybody owes, it's you," he said. Robinson became popular in the GOP precisely because he loves to attack Black people. He called the Black Panther movie "trash" made by a "satanic marxist"; said that Halle Berry, Mariah Carey, and Issa Rae wear "whore dresses"; and repeatedly misgendered former first lady Michelle Obama as a man. Then there's Winsome Sears, the gun-toting Virginia lieutenant governor, who is upset because she thinks critical race theory is being taught in schools. It's not. Next up is Daniel Cameron, the former Kentucky Attorney General who said the police killing of Breonna Taylor was "justified" and declined to charge the officers responsible for her death. I guess Black lives really don't matter to Republicans. Or how about Larry Elder? The 72-year-old Black Republican lived through Jim Crow segregation, Rosa Parks' arrest, and Martin Luther King's assassination, but he told Fox News that Trump's indictment was "probably the most egregious thing I've ever seen in the history of our republic." Was he kidding? Or Ben Carson, the Trump appointee who thinks systemic racism ended with the Civil Rights Movement, says Colin Kaepernick would never have been criticized if he had just said he loved America, and claims that Obamacare is the "worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery." Really? Providing health care to

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Raleigh-based DEI firm builds community

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express what we're going through."

The Triangle Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Alliance, a program of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, will hold its annual DEI conference July 23 at the Raleigh Convention Center. Matthew McCarthy, the former CEO of Ben & Jerrys, is the keynote speaker.

Expecting more than 1,000 attendees, it is the biggest DEI conference in the state, Torri Staton, vice president of DEI for the Chamber, said.

"When you think about the Triangle and how diverse it is, DEI has to be an aspect of the work that we do. We really look for this to be a place where the business community can engage, and the business community is so diverse, we want to make sure that we're engaging all of it," she said.

Marie Deveaux, CEO and founder of High Tides, a learning and development agency, used Shipley's expertise in data analysis and management to help her

company grow. Deveaux, who also works in DEI, attends Triangle DEI Community events.

"It's one of the robust places for myself as a practitioner to find community and like-minded people. Anyone who's working to shift culture, who's working toward collective liberation, it is very trying work; it tends to be very heavy work. Just having a space where you can let your guard down and it's safe, even vent a little bit, but also seek refuge and resources from other people who know what you're up against, is tremendously valuable," Deveaux said.

Janesha Hassaram, who works for ElectriCities of North Carolina and is on the company's Inclusion and Diversity Committee, is using the plan Shipley designed to help strengthen their DEI activities. The end goal, Hassaram said, is to achieve a sense of belonging in the workplace.

"One of our core values as a company at ElectriCities is people. It's impor-

tant to treat everyone with respect, meet them where they are, and have empathy and consideration for our differences. We're at work, we've got goals and similar visions, so how do we all reconcile our differences, respect each other, and still meet what we set out to do," she said.

Shipley said backlash to DEI comes from people not fully understanding what it means. She said people tend to reduce diversity to race, gender and sexual orientation. Race is reduced further to Black versus white, but there are so many types of diversity, including veteran and disability status.

Backlash also comes from the fear of losing power, Shipley said. "When we talk about equity, we're talking about giving people access to resources. For some people, it's a zero-sum game. They think, if you get this, then I have to lose it. We're trying to help people understand we can all succeed. It's just a matter of making sure that everyone has the resources to do so," she said.



Left to right: Attorney Aviance Brown, Kamille Richardson, Lakila Bowden and G. Milton Richardson at Tuesday's press conference.

Uber disabled rider dropped off at wrong location

By Alex Bass

alex.bass@triangletribune.com

RALEIGH - Kamille Richardson is going to Disney World to deliver her keynote speech, "The Magic of Being Differently-Abled: A Reframe on Disability."

Richardson, blind since birth, has shared this speech with nationwide corporations. Now, she wants Uber to listen.

Richardson; her sister, Lakila Bowden; their father, G. Milton Richardson; and attorney Aviance Brown held a press conference July 9 after Richardson's Uber ride to a Verizon store in May ended with her being left at the front door of a random apartment building one mile away from the store.

The driver, whom Richardson questioned about her location, reportedly knocked on the door and departed. "Thankfully, nobody answered," Richardson said.

Bowden went one step further. "Was this a sex trafficking attempt?" she asked. "Today, we don't know that it wasn't. I've never seen her have to adjust how she moves in this world. That infuriates me."

Richardson, always on the move, even as a track and field student-athlete at Douglas Byrd High in Fayetteville, wants to know why this harrowing experi-

ence happened to her, and still takes pause when discussing it.

With deep breaths and self-reassurance, she began using rideshare services alone, again, in June. After all, she has places to go and things to do, which, hopefully, do not include courtrooms.

"At this particular juncture, we are hoping to be able to resolve the matter pre-suit," Brown said. "We are certainly keeping our options open to future legal recourse if necessary."

Brown said Richardson has even reached out to Uber about partnering to offer accessibility training to drivers but has not received a response.

"We're offering the opportunity to partner and come to a collaborative resolution, because this is what we do in our company," said Bowden, founding business partner of iSee Technologies, a company that helps corporations optimize digital and physical accessibilities among services and products.

Some local media reported that Uber has issued an apology since the press conference. No information is available concerning the status of the driver.

Bowden acknowledged Uber offered a \$100 credit,

but still has concerns about an unaddressed technology detail.

"It appeared on the app that she was taken to the Verizon store," Bowden said of her sister's ride-share history. So, how was Richardson dropped off a mile from the store's address?

Any such resolution, Richardson said, begins with drivers understanding how those with visual challenges have a keen awareness of their surroundings, and are alert receivers of sensory messages.

Addressing technology gaps, she said, could be part of a partnership, too. Richardson acknowledged a feature of other rideshare services she has used that is not among Uber's features that could help protect riders and drivers. "If you deviate from the course, you get a warning that says, 'Where are you going?'"

A simple audible message like that gives Richardson her impetus to keep moving and speaking.

"For me, I will never get tired of using my voice to be able to create change in my community," she said. "I will continue to be that resource for people who don't feel comfortable. I'll use my voice."

Black Republicans aren't persuading Black voters

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Black people is worse than segregation, lynchings and mass incarceration?

And we can't forget Herschel Walker, the former football player who lied about being his high school valedictorian, lied about graduating from college, had no experience in government, and didn't even live in Georgia when Republicans recruited him to run for the Georgia Senate seat against Raphael Warnock. Walker's own son, Christian, admitted that his father was picked mainly "because he was the same skin color as his opponent."

Last, but not least is Clarence Thomas, the Harlan Crow-funded Black conservative who replaced the legendary Thurgood Marshall on the U.S. Supreme Court through affirmative action, and then joined five of his white colleagues to kill affirmative action for everyone else. Thomas also cast the decisive vote to gut the Voting Rights Act that protects Black people at the polls.

What these Black Republicans have in common is that none of them were chosen by Black people. They may have been born in Black communities decades ago, but none of them represent Black districts or interests. That means they have no accountability to the majority of Black Americans.

And that's important because Black and white people, like Democrats and Republicans, see the world differently. A new study from the Pew Research Center found that nearly 80% of Biden supporters say that white people benefit from racial advantages in society, while only 22% of Trump supporters say this.

In order for Black Republicans to stay relevant with the base, they have to pretend — or in some cases, they may even believe — that racism is not an issue in America. But the majority of Black people know better. If Black Republicans spent more time in Black communities, they'd know it too.



AHMED JALLOW

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Gov. Roy Cooper and other officials help break ground on a new Raleigh-to-Richmond high speed rail line that will be made possible with federal infrastructure funding.

Groundbreaking on new Raleigh-Richmond rail

By Ahmed Jallow

NC NEWSLINE

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Gov. Roy Cooper broke ground last week on a new high-speed rail line that will link Raleigh to Richmond, marking the project's first phase, which includes constructing a bridge to carry Durant Road over a railroad line.

The \$1.3 billion project funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the largest grant ever received by the N.C. Department of Transportation. It will provide passenger service between downtown Raleigh and Wake Forest by 2030

and is the first leg of a planned high-speed rail connection between Raleigh, Richmond and the Northeast.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter in passenger rail in North Carolina and really one of the biggest projects that we're supporting anywhere in the country," Buttigieg told reporters.

The stop marked the first on Buttigieg's national summer construction tour. He visited Winston-Salem the next day, where he participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Salem Parkway multi-use path. Buttigieg returned to Durham, which recently re-

ceived a \$12 million federal grant to improve 33 downtown intersections.

Cooper highlighted the role of passenger rail in improving connectivity and reducing carbon emissions during Monday's ceremony. "It helps reduce carbon emissions and helps us to save our planet as well as providing a great opportunity for people to get from one place to the next in a better way," he said. "We know cutting down travel times in that arena is going to make it even better for our economy and make it better for the people in North Caro-

Please see **RAIL/3A**



AARON SANCHEZ-GUERRA

Sonya Williams, 59, sits in her Wendell home with her mother, Eunice Towns, 77.

Darryl Williams died after a police tasing in Raleigh

By Aaron Sanchez-Guerra

WUNC

The buzz of the air conditioning and the chatter of television commercials are the loudest sounds in the home Sonya Williams shares with her mother on a hot June afternoon.

There aren't any pictures on the walls, and their belongings are in boxes. They're moving to a new place but staying in Wendell, where they've lived all their lives. They'll leave behind one particularly painful memory in that small apartment.

"(On) Jan. 17, four police officers came, two homicide detectives came and told my mother that Darryl was dead," Williams, 59, said in her first sit-down interview since her son's death.

Darryl "Tyree" Williams, 32, died last year in Raleigh police custody just hours after officers repeatedly used Taser stun guns on

him while struggling to arrest him on drug charges. He was declared dead an hour after being put in handcuffs. "That was my son," Williams said. "He was my firstborn, and I really miss him. He wasn't perfect, but that was my son."

After her son's death, Williams received an outpouring of community support. The biggest form was in the legal and emotional support of local civil rights firm Emancipate NC. Then, she got a call from civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who also took on the case and is part of the legal counsel. Crump represented the families of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.

The city of Raleigh is now facing the biggest wrongful death lawsuit involving police in recent years, seeking \$25 million in damages, filed by Emancipate NC in March. Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman ruled last year that

there were no grounds to criminally charge the six officers involved in the case, and said they acted lawfully in subduing Darryl with stun guns to arrest him.

"I'd have been happy if they just charged them police officers," said Williams' mother, Eunice Towns. "I'd have been happy, no lawsuit, no nothing."

In an almost humorous way, Towns recalled asking police an important question when they first told her the news of her grandson's death. "I said, 'Well, what happened? Did y'all shoot him?'" she said. "Cause I know how they be doing. That's why I asked, 'cause I know they be shooting Black men, I do.'"

The case against Raleigh police is unique: there weren't any guns fired, Darryl was unarmed, and he didn't attack the officers. Police body cameras captured everything, including his screams and Please see **WILLIAMS/3A**

Groundbreaking on new Raleigh-Richmond rail

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lina.” The Raleigh-to-Richmond rail project will use the existing S-Line rail corridor, a freight rail corridor currently owned by CSX. Virginia has already acquired its portion of the line, and North Carolina officials are finalizing a deal to purchase the corridor in our state.

In May, the White House announced that it has allocated nearly \$454 billion from the Bipartisan Infras-

tructure Law to over 56,000 projects around the country since the passage of the \$1 trillion bill in 2021.

North Carolina is set to receive \$9.4 billion in funding from the law for 512 projects, according to the White House. The funding includes about \$633 million for clean water projects, with \$175 million going toward replacing toxic lead pipes, according to a fact sheet released by the White House in May.

“North Carolina has done very well in investments from the federal government with this bipartisan infrastructure legislation,” Cooper said. “I’m so grateful that President Biden got this and other major pieces of legislation through that really are generational investments that will help our children and our children’s children.”

Reporter Ahmed Jallow covers education, politics and elections.



Black press still a trusted voice in Black community

By Megan Sayles
AFRO BUSINESS WRITER

Fears over the future of the newspaper industry are not new. With the transition to the internet in the 1990s, the rise of social media in the 2000s and the emergence of artificial intelligence, media organizations have had to continually adapt.

As consumption patterns change, advertising revenue slows and media consolidation takes place, some organizations may perceive more obstacles than opportunities. However, Benjamin Chavis, president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, has the opposite outlook. “All businesses have challenges and opportunities,” Chavis said. “The question is, are the opportunities greater than the challenges? That answer is yes.”

The opportunities at hand rest in news organizations’ ability to deliver content through a multitude of mediums, which Chavis thinks has expanded the business model. “Black press is still in the print business, but it’s expanded to digital and social media. A lot of our businesses are multimedia companies now,” Chavis said. “Some people think one media form supplants the other, but that’s not accurate. We’re content producers and distributors. It’s a matter of how we distribute content, and we do that in multiple formats and channels.”

Bobby R. Henry Sr., NNPA

chairman and publisher of the Westside Gazette, thinks there’s also a certain amount of grit that sustains the business of the Black press. His father, Levi Henry Jr., started the family paper more than 50 years ago in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after being misquoted by one of the local white-owned papers, which refused to retract or correct the quote. Its early motto was “a positive paper for a positive people.”

Growing up at the paper and then leading it, Henry Sr. remembers encountering many trials and tribulations. “I vividly remember the struggles, the sleepless night and not being able to pay the printer. All of that comes to mind,” he said. “When I’m asked about a business model, it’s to grind by any means necessary.”

Henry Sr. noted that social media and recent initiatives to secure the future of news have created additional avenues for gaining revenue. But, for him, the true power is in the content the Black press disseminates. “The core of gaining the revenue is the same. It’s the message that we’re putting out and the voices that we’re speaking for,” Henry Sr. said. “Though we try to engage on all fronts, that doesn’t mean anything if we don’t have the pulse of the people.”

Chavis said the Black press has earned its position as the trusted voice of the Black community. This distinction underpins the

value of Black media. “It adds value to everything that we do, everything that we publish and everything that we distribute,” Chavis said. “Potential sponsors and advertisers get a greater return on investment when they do business with the Black press because we’re the trusted voice.”

In the face of attacks on Black history, and diversity, equity and inclusion, both Henry Sr. and Chavis think safeguarding the future of the Black press is of vital importance. For Henry Sr., it’s even a matter of life and death, and it’s going to take a team effort to achieve.

He thinks the Black community cannot win the battle alone. The team must include people from allied communities, but they must be chosen carefully.

Chavis noted that the protection of the Black press is not just for the benefit of Black communities but for everyone. He compared it to Martin Luther King’s dream. While many think the renowned civil rights leader was only advocating for the rights of African Americans, Chavis said he was fighting for the liberation and self-determination of all Americans. “The future of the Black press and the future of Black America are inextricably linked. If the Black press becomes silent, that will be injurious to the future of Black America,” Chavis said. “We serve as a vital source of information not only to Black America but to America in general.”



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Williams dies after tasing

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pleas for officers to stop tasing him. A video summary of the body-worn camera footage of the incident was uploaded to the Raleigh Police Department’s YouTube account weeks after the in-custody death.

“He told them, ‘I got heart problems,’ and then they tased him again,” Williams said. “That’s ... that’s murder.”

The N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner classified Darryl’s death as a homicide in an autopsy released last summer, in part due to “conducted

energy weapon use.” Homicide as a medical term indicates death as a result of the action of another person but is not the same as a criminal homicide. “I can’t get no closure until I get some justification,” Williams said. “My son’s life meant more than any amount of money that I could get.”

The Raleigh Police Department said Williams was tased three times, but the federal lawsuit filed by Crump and Emancipate NC claimed it was six times, including once while Williams was in handcuffs, WUNC reported pre-

viously.

The lawsuit names the city of Raleigh, Raleigh Police Chief Estella Patterson, and the officers involved in the encounter as defendants.

A spokesperson declined to comment on litigation involving the city.

Williams says if she were to see any money from the lawsuit, part of it would go to upgrade the headstone on her son’s grave, which she visits often.

Darryl is buried in the cemetery of Riley Hill Baptist Church in Wendell, the same church where he was baptized as a child.

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Rev. Dr. Debra L. Haggins has been appointed as the Founding Deanship of the newly launched School of Religion

Hampton University announces new school of religion partnership

By Rev. Dorothy S. Boulware
WORD IN BLACK

One of the most exciting pieces of news from the 2024 Hampton Ministers Conference is the launch of Hampton University's School of Religion, which offers the usual degrees in religion and theology, and is now the first HBCU to offer a doctorate.

"It's more than a dream come true. It's much needed at this time in the life of the Black church and the Black community. Churches need as much support and assistance as we can give them," said the Rev. Debra L. Haggins, founding dean of the School of Religion, executive director and treasurer of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, and Hampton's first female chaplain.

"Theological education is changing. It's a post-COVID education. People are going to church differently with different expectations."

Haggins said COVID brought to the forefront a culture of consumerism in the church, and people are making choices unlike those previously made.

"Not only have we survived COVID, but the paradigm has literally shifted. We now rely on the creative side of worship; technology to broadcast, social media platforms like Meta live. Technology came together to keep the church alive, and we rely heavily on it now," she continued.

Not only is the school already in full operation, but its first partnership has been formed with the Church of God in Christ Second Jurisdiction of Virginia.

"We are thrilled to announce that the Church of God in Christ is our very first partner with the School of Religion," Hampton University President Darrell K. Williams said in a statement. "Together, we are shaping the future of religious education and leadership, stepping forward to support our mission of preparing inspired and effective leaders for the 21st century."

The Church of God in Christ is one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world. Founded in 1907, C.O.G.I.C. is known for its commitment to spiritual growth, community service and social justice.

"The collaboration between C.O.G.I.C. and Hampton University's School of Religion is a remarkable opportunity to enhance spiritual education and leadership," said Bishop Michael B. Golden Jr., one of the youngest

bishops of C.O.G.I.C. "We are honored to be the inaugural partner in this endeavor, and we look forward to the positive impact this will have on our communities and beyond."


The new school is also bringing 32 new professors to Hampton, and they've already experienced extensive training and two faculty retreats.

One of those new professors is the Rev. Drew Kynall Ross, senior pastor of New Hope Baptist Church

in Hackensack, New Jersey, who says his passion for teaching at a seminary level started while studying for his Master of Divinity in 2011.

"It was then that I began having a desire to teach preaching," Ross said. "Last year, I started a Ph.D. program to eventually teach preaching. When I saw that Hampton University's new School of Religion was accepting new professors, I quickly applied."

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AROUND THE TRIANGLE

RALEIGH MARKET

The next Black Farmers Market is July 14, 1-4 p.m., SE Raleigh YMCA, 1436 Rock Quarry Road.

PARK

A drop-in design workshop to help design Tarboro Road Park is July 16, 4-8 p.m., 121 N. Tarboro St. Open to the public.

MEETUP

"I Just Need to Talk" meetup is July 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Uptown Dogs, 3923 New Bern Ave. Register at eventbrite.com.

DINNER

N.C. Democratic Party's annual Unity Dinner is July 20, 7 p.m., Raleigh Convention Center. Visit www.ncdp.org.

CONCERT

Xscape & SWV will perform July 20, 7 p.m., Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek. Tickets

via Live Nation.

DURHAM CARAVAN

DP&R's Fun Caravan will travel to different neighborhoods during the summer.

* July 17, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Merrick-Moore Park, 632 N. Hoover Road

PERFORMANCE

Urban Bush Women will perform July 17-18, 7:30 p.m., Reynolds Industries Theater, Duke West Campus. Tickets at tickets.duke.edu.

CAMP

Durham Fire Department's all-girls Junior Fire Marshal Camp is July 17-19 for ages 13-16. Email: Elaine.Towner@durhamnc.gov.

SHOWER

Durham Community Baby Shower is July 20, 3-5 p.m., Community Center at Lyon Park, 1309 Halley St.

POETRY

Jambalaya Soul Slam Paper Thin Poetry Slam is July 20, 8 p.m., Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St.

FUNDRAISER

Durham Farmers' Market 25th anniversary celebration dinner is July 21, 5:30-9 p.m., Durham Central Park Plaza, 501 Foster St.

CHAPEL HILL BACKPACK

Monet Richardson Community Foundation's Backpack Program shopping and assembly is June 20. Contact: Pat Richardson at themonetfoundation@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

HOPE NC's next community event is July 20, 2-4 p.m., Orange United Methodist Church, 1220 MLK Jr. Blvd. RSVP at hope-northcarolina.org.



JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

ADF to honor Urban Bush Women founder

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - Jawole Willa Jo Zollar will accept the 2024 American Dance Festival Lifetime Achievement Award July 17 in Durham. Zollar, founder of the acclaimed dance company and social activism ensemble, Urban Bush Women, is also a MacArthur, Guggenheim and U.S. Artists Fellow, among many other accolades.

The Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance

Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement will be presented following a performance of SCAT! The dance-driven musical by Zollar is a multidisciplinary love story. A jazz club spectacular, "Scat! The Complex Lives of Al & Dot, Dot & Al Zollar," tells the story of two people moving from the Jim Crow South and making their way to Kansas City, a personal and collective story from the Great Migration to the present.

Urban Bush Women, a leader in the cannon of the Black Arts Movement, is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a national tour this year.

While Zollar continues to choreograph and be a leader within UBW, she's also engaged in the important work of legacy building and announced the appointment of two joint appointed co-artistic directors: Channon Judson and Mame Diarra Speis.

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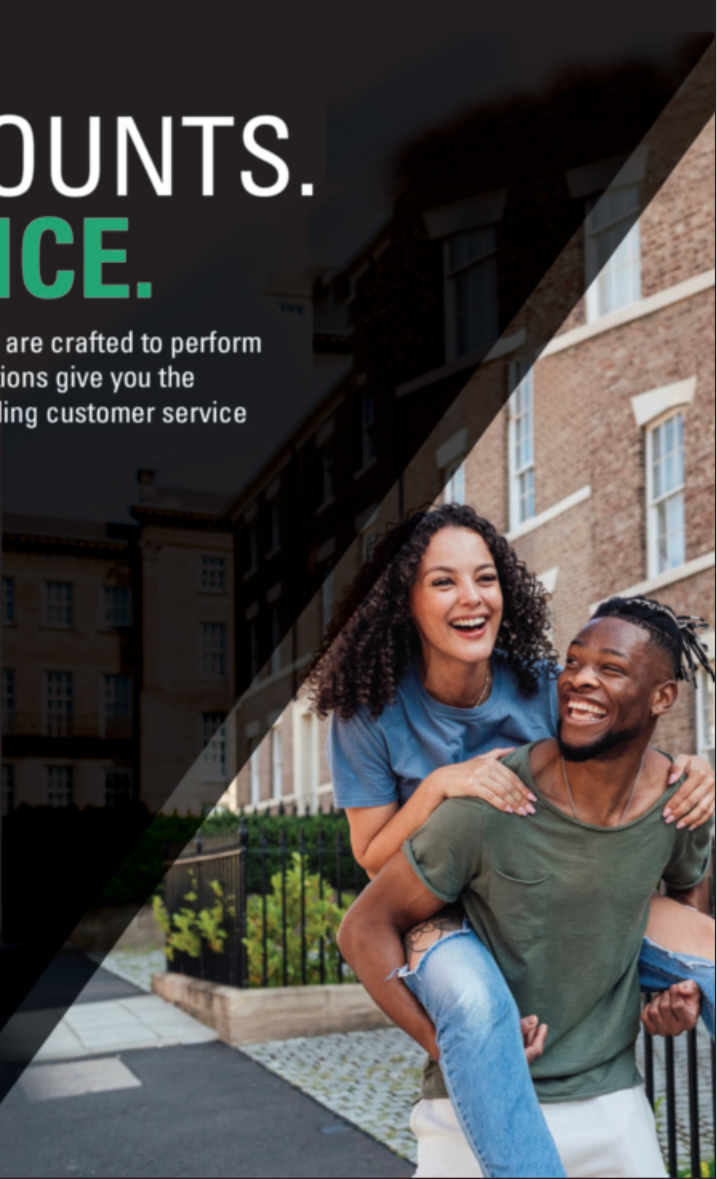
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George Williams gets his dream call

George “Pup” Williams has been waiting for THE call since we last talked in February about part of I-440 being renamed in his honor.

The Raleigh City Council had unanimously approved the measure a week earlier and all that was left was a final OK from the NCDOT Board. In that column, I asked, “Who’s going to argue?”

Obviously, no one with a brain, because on Wednesday morning the vote was, again, unanimous, and the deal is now complete.

Part of I-440 that intersects with New Bern Avenue will be renamed after Williams. And not a minute too soon. If retired Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski can get a highway in his honor, Williams certainly deserved his share.

“Oh Jesus! I love my city, you know? It has always been there for me and for that kind of honor from people still thinking about me after all this time, it’s something that your family can always see or remember,” the legendary St. Augustine’s track and field coach said in February.

Williams even admitted that the beltline renaming would trump being selected as the 2004 U.S. Olympic track and field head coach and leading the U.S. to a record medal count.

“I remember that, you know, that was the top of my career, but people read about the Olympics but sometimes they don’t read about who was making the decisions. But when you walk and see that (beltline) sign, it’s going to make somebody ask, ‘Who is George Williams? What did George Williams do?’”

A heck of a lot.

Peeved Peak Sports

North Carolina Central athletic director Louis “Skip” Perkins created some controversy over remarks he made – and The Tribune reported on – at the June 25 Board of Trustees meeting.

In detailing some of the reasons why the athletic budget is in the red, Perkins said the university’s contract with Peak Sports was one of the main culprits. The 10-year deal, he said, guaranteed the multimarketing company 40% of all sponsorships sold.

“We have met with (Legal) Counsel multiple times to try to find a way to get out of this contract. The guy is not going to let us out,” Perkins said at the meeting.

Peak Sports has since responded to the allegations through its solicitor, Frost Echols LLC, in a four-page letter to the BOT. The letter states that: NCCU receives 100% of revenue between \$0 and \$100K. Peak Sports receives 100% of revenue between \$100K to \$275K, which it says is below the standard rate. And third, all revenue over \$275K is a 60-40 split in NCCU’s favor.

The letter goes on to say that, yes, in the original contract, Peak Sports was to receive 40% of everything sold, but an addendum to the contract was agreed upon and signed by Perkins on May 5, 2023, that ended the stipulation.

“This addendum gave Dr. Perkins the ability to raise funds where Peak Sports would receive no credit. Dr. Perkins still has the contractual right to do this now, but its Peak Sports’ understanding that Dr. Perkins has raised nothing,” the letter says.

Ouch! That was a slap.

In response to Perkins “asking out of the contract” that has approximately seven years left, the letter states that Perkins did pose the question to PS President Ryan Holloway in April because “the Board of Trustees was pressuring him to raise revenue.”

Holloway responded, it

Please see **CALL/7A**

The Triangle Tribune Sports

July 14- July 20, 2024 | 6A

Benedict dethroned! Albany State picked to win



The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association announced its preseason order of finish and all-conference teams at its football media day Tuesday.

* Preseason Offensive Player of the Year: Lane RB Kylan Duhe

* Preseason Defensive Player of the Year: Tuskegee DB Mikael King

Predicted Order of Finish

1. Albany State
2. Fort Valley State
3. Miles
4. Tuskegee
5. Benedict (two-time defending champion)
6. Edward Waters
7. Kentucky State
8. Savannah State
9. Central State
10. Clark Atlanta
11. Allen
12. Lane
13. Morehouse

COURTESY

COLLEGE CORNER

St. Aug’s, WSSU get new basketball coaches

BOXTOROW radio show, hosted by Donal Ware, will broadcast its annual Countdown to Kickoff July 20, 6 p.m., at Sticks and Vines in Durham.

Six coaches are scheduled to appear to discuss the upcoming football season:

- * North Carolina Central coach Trei Oliver
- * N.C. A&T coach Vincent Brown
- * Winston-Salem State coach Robert Massey
- * Johnson C. Smith coach Maurice Flowers
- * Elizabeth City State coach Marcus Hilliard
- * Shaw coach Adrian Jones

WOMEN

N.C. Central

Alumna Sheena Dean was selected for the prestigious NCAA 2024-25 Postgraduate Internship Program. The Raleigh native earned a B.A. in political science and government, and a master’s in athletic administration. Dean worked as an equipment manager and a graduate assistant.

St. Augustine’s
Things are heating up in Falconland.

Assistant basketball coach LaTasha Shipman-Ganus has been promoted to head coach after the departure of Ebony Tanner to Elizabeth City State.

CC is not going into Shipman-Ganus’ coaching credentials. She is still the greatest center to play at Shaw. She scored over 1,000 points and grabbed more than 700 rebounds, and led the Bears to two CIAA championships.

Shaw

Soccer has signed Havelock High School midfielder Adaija Cypress.

Edward Waters

Sophomore Aalisha Alexis will participate in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup after earning a spot on the Trinidad and Tobago team.

The native swept her opponent (6-0, 6-0) in the qualifying

Please see **ST. AUG’S/7A**



NC Courage forward named to Brazilian Olympic roster

STAFF REPORTS

CARY – North Carolina Courage forward Kerolin Nicoli has been selected to the 18-player Brazilian Women’s National Team Olympic roster. Nicoli is the reigning NWSL MVP but is yet to play in 2024 as she recovers from a torn ACL suffered in October.

Nicoli finished 2023 as a

Golden Boot runner-up with 10 goals and three assists in the regular season while creating 35 chances and winning 115 duels en route to MVP honors. She also scored what would be the match-winner in the UKG NWSL Challenge Cup Final in September to lead the Courage to a second

Please see **COURAGE/7A**

Devout athletes find strength in their faith

By Giovanna Dell’orto and Deepa Bharath
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It’s been 100 years since a Scottish runner famously refused to race on a Sunday at the Paris Olympics because of his Christian beliefs. Devout top athletes say elite sports performance still poses some hurdles for the faith practices that are central to their lives on and off the field.

At this summer’s Paris Olympics, much of the controversy

has centered around Islam, because France’s unique secularism principles forbid its athletes from wearing headscarves as well as other visibly religious symbols — though the ban doesn’t affect Olympians from other countries.

But athletes of different faiths argue sports organizations and major events should better respect the breadth of religious practices, especially as they strive to be more inclusive. To

Please see **FAITH/7A**

St. Aug's, WSSU coaches

Continued from page 6A
match. Alexis also played in the 2021 Billie Jean King Cup. This year's event is in November.

MEN
N.C. Central
Former record-setting punter Juan Velarde is one of five recipients of the Bill Dooley Chapter 2024 University Scholar-Athlete Award. Velarde gave up his final year of eligibility to declare for this year's NFL Draft.

He joins four other players from N.C. State, Duke, East Carolina and UNC, but CC ain't naming them. We only care about HBCU players.

Coach LeVelle Moton's last basketball camp of the summer is Aug. 3. Visit lmmbbcamps@gmail.com.

And speaking of men's basketball, Jaqai Murray has joined Eagleland. "Jaqai is the epitome of toughness and versatility. He'll add tremendous value to our basketball team," Moton said.

Joining Murray will be Winston-Salem State transfer point guard Isaac Parson.

Shaw
Football season tickets are now on sale. That's all.

Winston-Salem State
Alumnus Corey Thompson was named head men's basketball coach on Tuesday, replacing Cleo Hill Sr. Thompson is the first basketball hire under athletic director Etienne Thomas.

"...I am dedicated to upholding and protecting the legacy built by the incredible teams of the past and present," Thompson said. "Having once walked the same paths as the young men I now have the privilege to lead, I am committed to motivating and supporting them just as I was supported over 22 years ago."

Thompson won back-to-back CIAA championships with the Rams under legendary coach Rickey Duckett. He and his team were inducted into the 2012 C.E. "Big House" Gaines Hall of Fame.

Bowie State
Bowie State student-athlete Anthony "AJ" Lytton died over the July Fourth weekend.

Lytton played on the football team in 2023 and '24 and was scheduled to graduate in December.



Former NCCU punter Juan Velarde

"Anthony will truly be missed," football coach Kyle Jackson said. "He was a bright spot for the Bowie State football program. AJ was a great football player, but an even better young man. I would like to send our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones, Isaiah Hazel and Khyree Jackson."

Hello. Goodbye.
Basketball Edition.
* Northwestern State

guard Duane Posey, Texas Southern
* Garden City CC 7-foot-3 center Bol Kuir, Alabama A&M
* Schoolcraft College guard Hunter Conway, Lincoln (Pa.)
* East Carolina forward Colin McKenzie, South Carolina State
* Palm Beach Atlantic forward Daniel Braster, Alcorn State



Kerolin Nicoli poses in a Brazil jersey during arrivals prior to a Courage match at WakeMed Soccer Park.

NC Courage forward named to Olympic roster

Continued from page 6A
straight Cup Championship.

She tore her ACL in the regular season finale on Oct. 15 in Washington, D.C., and has been working towards her return to the field. With her selection, she is poised to return to play on the world stage.

This is the first Olympic honor for Nicoli and her second major tournament after playing for Brazil in the 2023 Women's World Cup. She becomes the fourth member of the Courage named to an Olympic roster this summer along with Sydney Collins (Canada), Casey Murphy (USA) and Cortnee Vine (Australia).

Devout athletes and faith

Continued from page 6A

many, faith and spirituality are also essential to mental well-being, which has come under the spotlight since U.S. gymnastics star Simone Biles' open struggles at the last Olympics.

American Olympic champion Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone says embracing her Christian faith has transformed her life and career by helping her move beyond doubt and fear. "For a long time, my identity was in track and field," she told The Associated Press days before the U.S. Olympic track and field trials. "But I realized that first and foremost, I'm a child of God. It set me free to run the race

God has set out for me to run."

McLaughlin-Levrone, 24, said she has shared devotionals and lessons from her faith journey on Instagram, where she has more than 1 million followers, and prays with her coach, trainer and husband before every race.

When her mind is rooted in God, that's when she is able to handle the pressures and high expectations of being an Olympic athlete — "especially in track, where things are so uncertain and always changing."

"That means being in the word, being in prayer, keeping that in the forefront and allowing that to be what centers my mind

and not the outside voices of the world," she said.

Athletes with a secure attachment to God tend to be less depressed, anxious and lonely than those with a negative perception of a punishing God or those who are not religious, said Laura Upenieks, a Baylor University sociology professor who has studied elite athletes at U.S. colleges.

That's in large part because they don't base their self-worth on others' approval, are less self-centered and can find greater meaning beyond being "only as good as the last race," Upenieks added.

"Faith gives me the ability to stand firm and to keep going."

Williams gets the call

Continued from page 6A

says, by reminding Perkins of the addendum that had been added in May. Thus, he had no interest in canceling the contract.

The letter sums up: "Peak Sports has never received any monies from anything that NCCU has raised from donations. NCCU has yet to sell a single sponsorship that Peak Sports received 40% revenue share on."

Frost Echols said the company has no interest in pursuing legal action toward NCCU, it just wants to set the record straight and the BOT minutes corrected

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

ACTIVITY SHEET

Hi Everyone!

Sankofa and I traveled to different parts of the MotherLand~Africa. While there, we heard about a special day that the people from South Africa celebrate. It is Nelson Mandela International Day! Have you heard of it? Do you know who Nelson Mandela is and why he is so esteemed and honored? If you haven't heard, let me share a little about his importance...

WHO IS NELSON MANDELA?

Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity- as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. In recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, the UN General Assembly declares July 18th, "Nelson Mandela International Day".

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

Mandela Day is an annual international day taking place on July 18 of each year that honors the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa and the anti-apartheid icon. This day marks the day of his birth each year. Mandela was born July 18, 1918, in Mvezo, South Africa. He dedicated his life to fighting against the racial segregation and oppression that took place under the apartheid system in South Africa. Mandela's activism and leadership in the African National Congress (ANC) led to his imprisonment for 27 years by the apartheid government. As a result, he became a symbol of resistance and the struggle for freedom.

After his release from prison in 1990, Nelson Mandela played a pivotal role in negotiating the end of apartheid and the transition to a democratic South Africa. In 1994, he was elected as the country's first black president in the first multiracial and democratic South Africa.

We should celebrate this day every year as a reminder of Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; compassion, forgiveness, and the pursuit of social justice.

NM INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED BY GIVING BACK!

Every July 18th, on Mandela Day, individuals are inspired to act and make a positive impact within their communities. This day encourages people to dedicate 67 minutes of their time to give back, which represents the 67 years that Nelson Mandela devoted to public service.

On Mandela Day, people engage in various activities such as volunteering, community service, fundraising for charitable organizations, and promoting social justice.

67 GREAT WAYS TO SPEND 67 MINUTES out of your day...

- Volunteer at a Local Charity-by serving, organizing, assisting or participating
- Support a Community Clean-Up-pick up litter, plant trees or flowers
- Visit or Support Elderly Care Facilities-spend time chat, play a game
- Mentor or Tutor-offer your skills, help with homework
- Fundraise for a Cause-set up and host small event, collect donations,
- Engage in Random Acts of Kindness-buy a meal, offer assistance, share a smile
- Promote Social Awareness- participate in discussions, raise awareness, start conversations

How will you spend 67 minutes to celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

Famous Quotes of Nelson Mandela:

- "It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build."
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
- "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."
- "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."
- "Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity. It is an act of justice."
- "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others."

Reread these famous quotes from Nelson Mandela. Which is your favorite and why?

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

Unscramble these words from Nelson Mandela International Day!

manHu stgiR

rehtlinalna

elnosN ladeMna

ercvsiS

actlpm

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Match the word to the correct meaning.

Apartheid	Segregation	Humanity	Peacemaker	Equality	Dedication
		A policy of discrimination on the grounds of race.			
		The quality of being committed to a task or purpose.			
		A person who brings about peace by reconciling adversaries.			
		The action of setting someone or something apart from others.			
		The state of being equal in status, rights, and opportunities.			
		The human race; human beings collectively			

ANSWER KEY

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
Human Rights
International Day
Apartheid
Segregation
Service
Impact

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
Peacemaker
Dedication
Equality
Humanity

NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY, 07/15/24, #159 WWW.JOEYOUNG.ORG KEMET ACTIVITY SHEETS © 2024 BY JOE YOUNG

SCHOOL NEWS : WAKE COUNTY

Senior Spotlight: Ana Melendez, Heritage High School

Ana Melendez has been seen as a leader in many different capacities around Heritage High School, and now she's ready to make another trailblazing step as a first-generation college student in her family. This road wasn't easy, as she made her way through multiple tough stretches in her life.

Melendez faced a difficult transition phase early in her life when she moved to the United States from Mexico at the age of 10. "When I first came here, it was a little bit of a struggle due to the language barrier," she said. "I had a lot of friends that spoke Spanish, so they helped me translate all of the work."

Once Melendez hit high school, she was faced with another tough transitory period, as she entered her freshman year in 2020 in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her stepfather was also diagnosed with ALS. She and her mother became caretakers before her stepfather passed during her junior year. Melendez was able to find support from her counselor and teachers at school.

She became president of Sin Limites, a Spanish club at the club with many members having recently moved to the United States. She also was selected to be a Husky Ambassador and Junior Marshal. Husky Ambassadors are responsible for introducing new students to



COURTESY

Ana Melendez, Heritage High School

the school and helping them become adapted.

"When I was asked to do those things, I felt really proud of myself," Melendez said. "I felt like I had done well throughout my high school years, and I knew that you had to be recommended by teachers to become a Husky Ambassador and Junior Marshal. So, I feel like my teachers got a good impression of who I am and how I work with my peers and teachers."

Melendez is now planning to attend UNC at Greensboro, and will major in biology with a focus on pre-med, inspired by the memory of her stepfather and other members of her family who work in medical professions.

She noted that there were three teachers she felt were influential in her academic

career: Jennifer Pinkard at Baileywick Elementary School, Leah Harkness at West Millbrook Middle School and Caroline Valentine at Heritage. "In elementary school, Miss Pinkard was there for me and helped me when I had problems," Melendez said. "When I was in middle school, and I wasn't able to understand anything and I was struggling in classes, Miss Harkness took her time to take me aside and explain things with me. And Miss Valentine was my 10th grade biology teacher. I can say that biology was one of my easier subjects because she was able to explain things to me. She also let me help my peers that didn't know English. I'm really thankful to the three of them."

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

EMILY K

Valerie Anderson has been promoted to executive director of the Emily Krzyzewski Center. Anderson will work alongside chief executive officer Adam Eigenrauch to strengthen the organization's impact and explore opportunities to support the Durham community.

Anderson joined the Center in 2017 as the chief program officer and was promoted to chief impact officer in 2022. She reinforced the Center's focus

on racial equity and played a major role in the strategic growth and development of the Center's Game Plan: College program, which now serves up to 2,000 students annually.



Anderson



Jackson

WGU

Western Governors University has named Anthony "AJ" Jackson as a strategic partnerships manager. Jackson will help develop and maintain relationships with employers in North Carolina and South Carolina. He earned his B.S. from North Caro-

lina A&T and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

DURHAM

City Manager Wanda Page will retire at the end of the year after 36 years with the city. Page joined the department in 1987 as a senior staff accountant.

Are you or someone you know a Mover and a Shaker? Drop us a line at Movers and Shakers, c/o The Triangle Tribune, 5007 Southpark Drive, Suite 200-G, Durham, NC 27713, or email us at info@triangletribune.com. Photos welcome.



Science Corporation selects Durham County for expansion

STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - Durham County's life sciences manufacturing base continues to grow with the announcement that Science Corporation will invest \$65 million and create more than 50 new jobs. The 57,000 square foot expansion and program investment at its TW Alexander Drive location will support semiconductor manufacturing for new, cutting-edge technologies, including for a groundbreaking visual prosthesis.

"...Their life-changing work is helping to make innovative medical devices a reality. I'm also very proud of the well-paying, entry-level manufacturing jobs this project will bring. Two-thirds of the new jobs require only a two-year degree or less, and nearly 90% of the jobs require five years of experience or less," Durham County Board of Commissioners Chair Nida Allam said.

Science Corporation is a clinical-stage medical technology company and a leader in the field of brain-computer interfaces. Science is working to restore quality of life to those

with debilitating conditions for which there are no treatment options, creating devices aimed at restoring vision, cognition and mobility to patients who have lost it. With dozens of patients in six countries enrolled in ongoing clinical studies, Science is committed to translating innovations from bench to bedside for the benefit of everyone.

Science Corporation envisions its Durham County facility becoming its hub for manufacturing of next generation medical devices and as only the first in a series of large, capital-intensive projects.

"Our long-term goal at Science Foundry is to become the go-to manufacturing partner for the next generation of medical and brain-computer interface devices," director Kara Zappitelli said. "We are excited to partner with Durham County and expand in the Triangle region as part of this mission. The construction of our proposed facility, and our state and local partnerships, will enable us to increase production and achieve our goals. We are thrilled to be a part

of the Research Triangle community and are very grateful for this support."

Science Corporation's investment and expansion will be facilitated, in part, by a \$930,000 10-year performance-based incentive award approved by the Durham County Board of Commissioners. All payments for the project will adhere to the Durham County Economic Development Incentive Policy and will only occur following annual performance verification that the company has met its job creation, investment and community partnership targets. This includes maintaining that property taxes paid annually are at, a minimum, twice the scheduled payment amount.

Partnering with Durham County on this project are the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce, the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Contact Matthew Filter at mfilter@dconc.gov for more information.

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HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TEACHER

HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER SUMMER ARTS INTENSIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD