To: The ECU Board of Trustees

I strongly support the Chancellor, students, and faculty to remove the Aycock name on ECU’s campus dorm. I encourage our board to be progressive and a take decisive stand on removing his name.

I received a note recently from Mr. Brinkley inviting students, alumni, and others to join a conversation. I was on campus last week and was disappointed to hear that the board deferred the vote. I cannot be on campus during the upcoming conversations. However, I do want my voice to be included as a strong supporter for renaming the dorm. I am willing to listen, but if documented information is factual, then why would ECU continue to give honor to a leader who actively terrorized a segment of Americans (Negros/Blacks/Africans) at any point in his history.

As Americans today, we stand united against those “who use violent actions to frighten or harm people as a way to achieve personal or political goals”. This is the history of Mr. Charles B. Aycock as a leader of the white supremacist moment in the 1898-1900. For all the good that he achieved for public education after this time, it doesn’t erase the harm, hurt, and deaths through violence to black Americans during that era. My ancestors who were exercising their rights, as God created human beings, were also denied basic rights in our history. Today, I live on the backs and lives of those who endured those terrible times.

I don’t’ see this issue as much about black or white, as I do right versus wrong for Americans. How can we be appalled at other cultures who spread hatred if we honor leaders in our own country who did the same? If his ideas had prevailed, then I, and many other students of my ethnicity would not have been at ECU. As it stands now, East Carolina University, is my school too. I graduated, serve and contribute to it.

I am willing to have a discussion with any board member or leader who wants to share a different point of view on this. At this time, I stand with the school and encourage you to please vote to rename Aycock dormitory.

Warm Regards,

Original signed by:

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Cc Steve Ballard, Chancellor ECU