Subject: FW: "Aycock's legacy, ECU debate"
Date: Monday, December 1, 2014 at 8:57:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
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Subject: "Aycock's legacy, ECU debate"

This is the Pitt County Branch of NAACP respond to recent East Carolina University Officials last week debate on revision to its facilities and activities naming process. The article can be found in Monday, 11/24/14 copy of Reflector, section B.

To ECU Board of Trustees:

The purpose of this letter is to address some issues raised in Jane Dail’s recent story, “Aycock’s legacy fuels ECU debate.” There is talk about revising the Policy on Naming University Facilities and Activities. The Pitt County Branch of NAACP supports any policy allowing for the removal of any vestige or remnant of racism or discrimination against people of color or any other group for that matter.

Trustee Max Joyner pointed out that the naming of Aycock Resident Hall took place 54 years ago. This means that the building was named in 1960 at a time when Mr. Jim Crow terrorized and demonized black folks. This was just before civil rights and voting rights brave fighters were murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi and other hot spots in the South as they tried to level the playing field and create an environment where people would not be barred from voting merely because of their race. Mr. Joyner, we should not have to wait another three months. The time is overdue—long overdue—to do what is right and send Charles Aycock to the dark ages of history.

"The physical wounds have healed, yes, but his name is proof that the psychological wounds have not." This statement by ECU senior Tyree Barnes (as mentioned by Ms. Dail) is so profound. It reminds us that although so much has changed, too much still remain the same. Further, East Carolina University must decide if it wishes to stand with a white supremacist former governor, Charles Aycock, who believed that white was right and superior and that black must stay back and swim in a sea of racial inferiority or stand with those who find white
supremacy and voter suppression to be both abominable and unconscionable.

The NAACP asks that the ECU Board of Trustees and affiliated parties remove Charles Aycock's name from the residence hall on College Hill and consider replacing that name with a humanitarian and peace lover such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, or someone with a similar legacy advocating unity over division.

Calvin C. Henderson
President
Pitt County Branch of the NAACP