Please support the recommendation from the ad-hoc committee to rename Aycock Residence Hall.

I have reviewed the information on the university web page and find that Mr. Aycock’s actions are contrary to the mission, vision and core values of ECU. We have come a long way, even from when I was there from ’77-’81. During this time, there was little to no inclusion or engagement of minorities in campus activities. We were proud of the <1k square foot "house" called the cultural center, which was our gathering place. I ate the majority of my meals in the cafeteria on the hill and yearned to get back home to Charlotte, at every opportunity.

I became more engaged with the university, when my son decided to attend ECU. I sold him on the benefits of the university based on the continued growth, variety of degrees and impact to the community at large. He’s thriving!

I must say that I was shocked to learn of Aycock’s past and cannot rationalize how it can be acceptable for us to have a building named after him. We must be a first-mover and not wait to see what the other NC universities will do. We are leaders, not followers!

Leo Jenkins was a first mover, where he saw the value of integrating the university during his tenure. Today we celebrate Laura Leary [Elliott]. Today ECU is experiencing tremendous growth and is receiving awards for its diversity efforts. This is something to be proud of and tout.

As a leader, a decision to not change the name will give me reason to pause and question whether we are serious about advancing the university, in this space.

Linda Thomas
ECU Board of Visitors, member
ECU Alumni Association, Black Alumni Chapter, immediate past president