Remarks to the ECU Board of Trustees
Donna Kain, Secretary of the Faculty
February 2017

I seem to be on the same page as Chancellor Staton today, which is a good place to be.

As I was considering about what to talk about this morning, I thought about ECU's mission, particularly leadership and service. I kept coming back to the *reach* of our work internationally and regionally. The instances of ECU faculty and students reaching out to others and working in communities locally and globally are too numerous to cover, but I'd like to highlight just a few.

Study abroad programs represent amazing opportunities for students. In my own department of English, faculty members Will Banks, Rick Taylor, Anna Froula, and Andrea Kitta take students to England to study literature and culture; Tom Herron organizes trips to Ireland, and Lida Cope takes students to Eastern Europe. Seodial Deena has for years led study abroad trips to Belize, which has also resulted in students from Belize coming to study here. One of those students, Randy Marfield, was recently awarded a PhD in rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication. He has since returned to Belize to teach at the university. Another student from Belize will be receiving her PhD this spring.

Last May, Professors Patricia "Patch" Clark, School of Theatre and Dance, and Eleanor Kane from the University of Shimane, Japan, were presented with an award at the International Global Partners in Education 9th Conference for their collaborative work, "Global Storybook Theater." In the collaboration, ECU Students have been working with students at the University of Shimane for the past three years through video linking and eventually were able to travel for face-to-face performances.

Upcoming, Mark Jones, from the Department of Criminal Justice, is leading a study abroad program on "Crime and Global Justice in the Netherlands." Students will study the Dutch criminal justice system and learn about Europol and international judicial organizations.

<u>Baohong Zhan in Biology has been awarded a National Science Foundation</u> International Research Experience for Students (IRES) grant to link experts at East Carolina University and Henan Institute of Science and Technology in the field of plant genome and agricultural biotechnology. The IRES project will provide interdisciplinary academic education, mentoring, and research-based leaning for participating ECU students. Each year, five ECU graduate and senior undergraduate students will be selected to work with international partners and travel to China to attend an international conference where they will make connections with Chinese scientists.

Last March, Jennifer Sisk and Gera Miles of the English department took 13 students to Viet Nam. The students were from Jennifer's Global Understanding class, in which ECU students use technology to connect with students abroad in real time. The ECU group connected with group of 8 students and their instructor from Japan. Together, the students participated in service and aide work, and Jennifer's students wrote about their experiences.

As the Chancellor mentioned, Whitney Morris, East Carolina University's coordinator of faculty-led study abroad, has been awarded a Fulbright for study abroad students.

Students also lead their own initiatives with international reach. For example, the student group "She's the First," led by founding member Keerthana Velappan, Honors College, raises money to sponsor girls who are the first in their families to go to school. Members of the group have visited some of the scholars they sponsor in Nepal and India. The ECU chapter has won ECU awards and international awards for their work.

Closer to home, students and faculty also connect leadership and service in their outreach.

Over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, Dr. Diana Majewski, assistant director of the EC Scholars and Dr. Todd Fraley, director of EC Scholars, accompanied 17 EC Scholars traveled to Charleston, South Carolina to work on a service project at the Ronald McDonald House. The students cleaned and organized in the facility and did a little painting. This is representative of an annual event for the EC Scholars

East Carolina University senior Lekisha Pittman was recognized in November for outstanding leadership and service by North Carolina Campus Compact, a statewide network of colleges and universities with a commitment to civic engagement. Pittman is a recipient of the network's Community Impact Award, honoring one student leader at each member school.

Pittman is a founding member of the ECU Campus Kitchens Project (CKECU) Nutrition Outreach program. She helps lead four nutrition lessons and provides healthy snacks to 40 children each month. Pittman said she does not take what she does on campus or in the community lightly.

In partnership with Dion Dail, manager of Greenville's Gamestop, Gera Miles, English, helped organize GAME P.L.A.Y. (Police, Life, and Youth), a pilot event that brought together 13 police officers and over 40 teenagers with the purpose of building community relationships. Participants played video games and showed off their dance moves while learning about each other. This was in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Pitt County.

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, has recognized East Carolina University as a semifinalist in this year's Innovations in American Government Awards competition.

ECU’s Community and Regional Development program will compete to be named a finalist in the competition and have the chance to be awarded $100,000 in Cambridge this spring. ECU’s Community and Regional Development program works in distressed, low-wealth and limited capacity communities with economic development products, technical assistance, and financial resources that help build stronger, more vibrant and capable communities. Kenny Flowers, assistant vice chancellor for community and regional development at ECU, leads that effort.

I could go on, and on, but the thrust is that we have reach locally, internationally, and regionally that is an important part of our students’ learning experiences.

Thank you.