

NewsReleases

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A&T Dean Appointed Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Chancellor Stanley F. Battle announced today the appointment of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Dean Alton Thompson as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Thompson will become the institution's second highest official July 1, replacing Dr. Janice G. Brewington, who retires June 30.

North Carolina A&T State University will conduct a national search to find a permanent successor for the provost position. An interim dean will be announced for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences by the end of this week.

"Dr. Alton Thompson's outstanding performance as dean of our award-winning School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences has certainly prepared him for this important new leadership role as chief academic officer for N.C. A&T," Battle said. "Thompson's track record in academics, research, recruitment, and grantsmanship will serve him well as the No. 1 leader of undergraduate and graduate instruction."

From his start as dean and executive director for agricultural programs in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at A&T (July 2000), Thompson has focused his energies on raising the School's academic and administrative performance to the next level. His collaborative, energetic, and enthusiastic style of leadership has advanced the School's student enrollment, public and private financial support, and service to local, national and international communities. He has also forged several successful partnerships between the School and other University units.

Thompson's academic specialty is in the interface of statistics, research methods, demography, and rural sociology. His research has resulted in the publication of 25 articles in refereed journals, seven book chapters, and a book titled "Quality of Life among Rural Residents in North Carolina: Community and Life Satisfaction." His research focus includes agromedicine, rural poverty/development, labor economics, and structure of agriculture. Thompson's grantsmanship has resulted in more than \$5,000,000 in extra-mural research funds for the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. He received his bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University and his master's and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

In North Carolina and across the nation, Thompson's work has received widespread acclaim. Currently, he serves on the Policy Board of Directors/Board of Agriculture Assembly for the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, the Rural Advancement Fund International, and is the chairperson of the 1890 Association of Research Directors, Inc., and the 1890 Council of Deans of Agriculture. In past years, he has served on the advisory boards for the Ford Foundation's Rural Economic Policy Program, Census of Agriculture Advisory Panel of the National Council on Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, and the Southern Governors' Southern Growth Policies Board.

These combined experiences provide him with a depth of understanding of the issues and opportunities facing A&T. Thompson is committed to helping A&T realize its vision as a learner-centered community that develops and preserves intellectual capital through learning, discovery, engagement and operational excellence.

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