A&T Project Seeks Better Speech Technology

The second Southeast Economics Development SEEDS Summit will be held on campus May 4-5 in Memorial Student Union. This year’s theme is “Economic Empowerment: From Words to Action.”

“This event is designed to enlighten, engage and empower participants to address the root causes of economic disparity,” said Richard H. Bowling, president of SEEDS. “The Summit will address the problems of economic growth and empowerment as well as provide networking opportunities and facts to help participants make informed decisions.”

Participants will attend informational workshops and seminars, network with top experts, visit and patronize businesses and receive a published Summit Report.

The keynote speakers for the event are Frankie T. Jones and Benjamin Ruffin.

A retired U.S. Air Force senior officer with more than 30 years of management experience, Jones is currently president and chief operating officer of B&C Associates in High Point. He is a graduate of N.C. A&T, Wayne State University, Duke University Divinity School and Shaw University Divinity School. He is pastor of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Danville, Va.

Ruffin is chairman of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and president of the RUFFIN Group in Winston-Salem. He is the former vice president of corporate affairs at RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company. Ruffin received his bachelor’s degree from North Carolina Central University and his master’s from UNC.

Other presenters include Andrea Harris, president of the N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development, and Gerry McCants, president of Black Pages USA.

SEEDS Summit 2001 is being held in conjunction with Heritage Fest 2001, which will be held Saturday, May 5, at A&T’s campus. For additional information about SEEDS, call (336) 691-1177. For information about Heritage Fest, call East Market Street Development Corporation, (336) 275-1101.

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The impressive workspace on the third floor includes 54 workstations equipped with high-speed laser printers and a conference room.

“Someone listened to us,” exclaimed Douglas McWilliams, an industrial engineering doctoral student. “The workspace for graduate students is a wonderful tool and resource. I have been offered two positions at national laboratories because of what A&T has provided for me.”

Electrical engineering doctoral student Travis Jamison also voiced appreciation to faculty and administrators at the March 30 dedication ceremony.

“I am seeing very, very positive changes at A&T because the Ph.D. and Graduate Workspace is what we needed. It has been great doing research for two summers at NASA where I am applying engineering solutions to societal problems.”
Summer Classes Being Offered Tuition Free for Employees

N.C. A&T faculty and staff will be allowed to take Summer Sessions 2001 courses utilizing the same procedures as during the regular academic year ... tuition free!

Employees may take one course per session or two courses over the summer. This benefit will cover the cost of tuition only. Employees must pay the required fees associated with courses. This action is consistent with the North Carolina General Assembly amended G.S. 116-143, which is used for regular semester enrollments.

The procedures for taking advantage of this waiver of tuition are found in the North Carolina A&T State University Handbook and Benefits Book, Appendix H.

To take a specific course the following must be true:

1. There must be space available in the class without displacing a regular paying student.
2. The instructor must be satisfied that this student meets all pre and co-requisites for the course.
3. The addition of this student does not change the decision on whether to cancel the course for low enrollment.

All enrollments under this program will be recorded using the standard system. First, dual and intercession terms will be listed in the academic year 2000-2001. Enrollments in the second session will be recorded in the 2001-2002 academic year.

Workspace (continued)

Dr. M. Reza Salami, associate dean for graduate and research programs in the College of Engineering, was overjoyed about the workspace project as he passed out commemorative mugs at the dedication.

“We had the idea but ran into obstacles until the chancellor became our major backer and made things happen,” Salami said. “I thank Renick, Meyers, Jeffries and Psalmodis for helping us to complete this project.”

Chancellor Renick said the workstations would meet the specific needs of graduate students by providing support, space and encouragement for them. Interim vice chancellor for business and finance, Paula Jeffries, said creating the workspace for students was our responsibility. Dr. Earnestine Psalmodis, vice chancellor for research and sponsored programs, emphasized A&T’s commitment to education and research coexisting to support economic development.

Dr. Joseph Monroe, dean of the College of Engineering, summarized the atmosphere at the dedication by saying, “We have an attitude of gratitude today! The College of Engineering is ready to go to the next level!”