

I have not received :

1. The NC A&T Sept. 2004 signed agreement with the USDA ,
2. NC A&T Board of Trustees minutes, resolution/motions whose subject matter is the USDA agreement preceding Sept. 2004.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN THE**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**AND**  
**NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is between the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, herein after referred to as the NRCS, and the North Carolina A&T State University, herein referred to as A&T.

**I. Purpose:**

The primary objective of this agreement is to forge a close working relationship between NRCS and A&T that fosters collaboration and cooperation in a joint effort to improve the use of natural resources in the nation as a whole, and particularly in North Carolina.

Both parties will achieve the activities herein through a commitment to working together for the benefit of both parties and the benefit to each organization's customer base that include the agricultural community as well as citizens throughout the U.S.

**II. Background:**

The NRCS delivers USDA programs and provides technical assistance in natural resource conservation planning and implementation to a variety of producer groups including low income and minority producers. One of A&T's major constituents is low income and minority producers. In addition to providing this group with assistance in conservation, A&T also provides agricultural production advice to this group of producers.

A&T and NRCS have opportunities in the area of training to assist each other complete this ongoing task. A&T has classroom facilities, equipment, software, laboratories, and a library that can all be used to assist in the training of NRCS staffs and its conservation partners (e.g., conservation district supervisors and employees, state staffs, and technical service providers).

NRCS and A&T can engage in demonstrations and field studies on natural resource conservation areas that specialists and faculty with similar interest can investigate collectively.

A&T and NRCS have faculty and specialists with similar educational backgrounds, research experience, and applied scientific skills that can be used to address a multitude of complicated field situations. It would be beneficial to create short-term exchanges between employees from the two organizations, which would benefit the organizations as well as producers, students, and communities.

NRCS has a need to diversify its workforce and A&T has a diverse student population. Some A&T students study and conduct research on natural resource conservation topics, which often coincide with the mission of the NRCS. Student internships, auditing of NRCS training classes, and NRCS sponsored project funding would benefit both organizations. Mutual tasks and interactive situations between people within these organizations could ultimately lead to a greater number of students hired by NRCS.

NRCS and A&T have superior computer capabilities (e.g., GIS). Both organizations also have databases that can be shared and mutually accessed. This type of digital interaction will help advance collaborations between the organizations.

A&T has a working farm with modern facilities and farm equipment. NRCS will benefit from the use of this farm by being able to provide hands-on training to NRCS employees. NRCS can sponsor field studies that can serve as demonstrations to both NRCS trainees and also local and regional farmers. A&T's constituents will also benefit from this type of applied investigation. Finally, A&T faculty and students can also benefit academically by conducting scholarly research and publishing this information.

### III. Authority:

Authority exists under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended (16 USC 590a-f) for the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate and/or enter into arrangements with federal and non-federal parties and to provide financial or other assistance for the purpose of carrying out a Soil and Water Conservation Program. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated authority (7 CFR 2.62) to the Chief of NRCS to provide national leadership for carrying out USDA responsibilities under 16 USC 590a-f. Regional Assistant Chiefs and State Conservationists have been delegated authority by the Chief (National Instruction ADS-120-302) to enter into arrangements for cooperating with others for the purpose of carrying out soil and water conservation activities within their areas of responsibility.

The General Assembly ratified an Act to consolidate the Institutions of Higher Learning in North Carolina on October 30, 1971, making North Carolina A&T State University a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. North Carolina A&T State University functions under the jurisdiction of a 32 member Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina elected by the General Assembly of North Carolina. The Board of Trustees of North Carolina A&T State University consists of thirteen members and received its authority by delegation from the Board of Governors. The Chancellor is the chief administrative officer of the University.

IV. North Carolina A&T State University and the NRCS mutually agree to:

- A. Develop a joint committee to ensure the smooth operation of the partnership by recommending the effective use of the partnership's resources and activities that achieve mutually agreeable goals.
- B. Work together to develop joint scientific experimentation and demonstration on natural resource issues including soils, social issues, animal waste management, etc.
- C. Work together to investigate and to improve outreach efforts to different groups of producers, including diverse and low-income producers.
- D. Develop and implement effective training to NRCS employees in a variety of disciplines and a multitude of natural resource topics.
- E. Foster the exchange of professional A&T faculty and students and NRCS specialists in order to facilitate the interchange of ideas, scientific approaches, and familiarity with organizational missions and goals.
- F. Collaborate creatively to cultivate innovative approaches to natural resource issues including delivering Federal and state programs effectively, developing scientific approaches and procedures, and transferring conservation technologies to a wide variety of producer groups.
- G. Identify joint research needs and opportunities for field application of new technology through demonstration projects, as appropriate.
- H. Develop and implement specific plans of action for cooperative activities pursuant to items A through G, as needed.

V. Duration and Limitations:

A. All programs or activities conducted under this MOU will be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259); and other nondiscrimination statutes: namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. They will also be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR 15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

B. This MOU defines in general terms the basis on which signatory agencies or organizations will cooperate, and as such, does not constitute a financial obligation to serve as a basis for expenditures. Expenditures of funds, human resources, equipment, supplies, facilities, training, public information, and expertise will be provided by each signatory agency or organization to the extent that their participation is required and resources are available.

C. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors will be documented in separate agreements, contracts, or leases made in writing by the representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriated statutory authority. Reimbursement or transfer of funds among the signatory parties will be handled at the appropriate level.

D. This MOU may be renegotiated, amended, extended, or modified by a written amendment to this MOU through an exchange of correspondence between authorized officials of both parties.

E. This MOU may be terminated by any signatory party with written notification to the other parties at least 30 calendar days in advance of the effective date of termination.

F. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate NRCS and Reclamation to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract or other obligations.

G. This MOU becomes effective on the date of its signature by both parties and continues for the duration of five years unless otherwise terminated or reestablished.


H. Contacts:

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**BRUCE I. KNIGHT**  
Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



**JAMES C. RENICK**  
Chancellor  
North Carolina A&T State  
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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University  
Greensboro

*Revised: 11/15/04*

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2004**

**FIRST REGULAR MEETING**

The Board of Trustees convened for its First Regular Meeting for 2004-2005 on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dowdy Administration Building Trustee Boardroom. In keeping with the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, notices of the meeting were mailed in advance.

The meeting was called to order by presiding Chairman, Gerald L. Truesdale. He called upon Trustee Swann to offer the invocation.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mrs. Leonora Bryant called Mr. Calvin F. Williams, Jr. forward to administer the Oath of Office. Following brief remarks by Mr. Williams, he was welcomed to the Board with a round of applause.

**Roll Call** revealed that the following were:

<b>Present:</b>	Mr. Milton S. "Brick" Brown, III	Mr. Michael L. Suggs
	Mrs. Carole Bruce	Dr. Melvin C. Swann, Jr.
	Mr. D. Hayes Clement	Dr. Gerald L. Truesdale
	Ms. Eunice M. Dudley	Mr. Steven C. Watson
	Mr. Henry H. Isaacson	Mr. Calvin F. Williams, Jr.
	Dr. Velma R. Speight-Buford	Mr. Joseph A. Williams

**Excused:** Mr. John J. "Nick" Becton

<b>Others Present:</b>	Chancellor James C. Renick	Ms. Nettie Rowland
	Cabinet Members	Mrs. Mable Scott
	Mrs. Leonora Bryant	Ms. Lanita Withers,
	Mrs. Janese Fails	<i>Greensboro News &amp; Record</i>
	Mr. Andrew Perkins	

**THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting, held on April 21, 2004, were presented for approval. A motion was offered by Dr. Speight-Buford and seconded by Mrs. Bruce to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

China, which was an incredible experience; 5) improving the physical infrastructure; 6) moving forward with the Millennial Campus. He also noted that state legislators provided support for the project totaling \$14 million—\$10 million for the south and \$4 million for the north, and 7) remaining focused on the Futures Visioning Process.

Chancellor Renick reiterated the remarks of the Political Science students that various programs have been put into place on campus to ensure that A&T students register to vote and are encouraged to participate in the election process.

He stated that the university continues to receive clean audit reports and that Mr. Ellis and the Business and Finance staff continues to ensure the integrity of the universities finances.

Chancellor Renick shared the following major announcements for the university:

- The first and most significant announcement regards the university's recognition of Carnegie Classification from Comprehensive to Doctoral Research Intensive. He added that this recognition is a major milestone in the evolution of North Carolina A&T.
- The Text in Community selection was announced and the entire student body will read the Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison throughout this academic year.
- In spring 2005, the university will host in residency the renowned artist, Joseph Holston. Mr. Holston has been commissioned to do a major painting which will be placed in the foyer of the new Events Center. The piece will be entitled *Graduation*, which will symbolize the culmination the educational experience at A&T. While on campus, Mr. Holston will offer master classes and work with the students and faculty.
- The National Scholastic Sports Foundation voted unanimously to hold the Outdoor Adidas Championship in Greensboro in spring 2005. This event which will bring to the city the best high school track participants in America, will be hosted at the Erwin Belk Track on A&T's campus. Sixty percent of the Olympians have participated in this meet. This 3-day event will not only bring revenue to the city, but will also be an excellent venue for greater visibility for the university and the track program.
- The university's Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures has been awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation.
- On September 20, the university celebrated the signing of a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the opening of the National Resources Conservation Services Eastern Regional Technology Center, which includes a National Sensing Lab. This was a significant event for A&T and the city because the Greensboro center is one of only three such centers in America—the other two are located in Portland, OR and Fort Worth, TX. Chancellor Renick thanked the Board members who were able to attend the event.