

On February 1, 1960, one of the most dramatic events during the Gibbs administration occurred when four freshmen students – Ezell Blair Jr. (Jabreel Khazan), Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond – sat down at a Greensboro lunch counter and launched what has become known as the start of the sit-in movement. The Gibbs years are known as the college’s greatest developmental era to this point. Gibbs, who was named president emeritus in 1960, died at the age of 101 in 1993.

Dr. Samuel Proctor was only 39 when he became the college’s fifth president in 1960. Although his tenure was brief, 1960-64, he is credited with creating new positions and making additions to the physical plant. Proctor was called to serve as a Peace Corps Director in Nigeria in 1962. He returned to A&T in 1963, but resigned in 1964 to return to the Peace Corps.

With Proctor’s departure, the college named Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy president in 1964, and reaffirmed him as chancellor in 1972. That same year, A& T became a constituent member of the University of North Carolina and the name was changed to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Under Dowdy’s leadership the university experienced its greatest period of growth. He reorganized instruction, creating the schools of education, business and economics, and the college of arts and sciences. There was an expansion of four academic buildings, a new gymnasium and a new football stadium.

After serving the university as president/chancellor, faculty member and dean for over 21 years, Dowdy resigned in 1980. He died on December 17, 2000. Dowdy was followed by Dr. Cleon Franklin Thompson, who served as interim chancellor from 1980-81.

In 1981, Dr. Edward Bernard Fort was named chancellor and held that post until his retirement in 1999. Under Fort’s leadership, A&T initiated more than 30 new academic programs, awarded its first doctorate degrees, completed more than \$50 million in new construction, expanded enrollment, and moved to a position of global recognition. Since his retirement, Fort remains at the university as a professor and chancellor emeritus.

Dr. James Carmichael Renick joined the campus in 1999 as its ninth chancellor. Renick’s tenure featured record -breaking enrollment in graduate and undergraduate programs; sponsored research that elevated A&T as the UNC system’s third-ranking university; phenomenal growth in the university’s physical plant; and collaborated in the development of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, site of the birth of the sitin movement that fomented at A&T in 1960. Dr. Renick left the university in 2006 for a national education position.

Dr. Lloyd “Vic” Hackley served as interim chancellor in 2006 and Dr. Stanley Battle was named chancellor in 2007.

Dr. Battle joins a long line of distinguished university leaders who have moved A&T from a small, land-grant college to an international university with a reputation of graduating the most minority engineers, one of the largest producers of African American certified public accountants, and, true to its heritage, home to the largest agricultural school of any historically black college or university and the second largest producer of minority agricultural graduates.

This is the A&T we believe in.

MISSION, PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

MISSION STATEMENT

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a public, doctoral/research intensive, land-grant University committed to fulfilling its fundamental purposes through exemplary undergraduate and graduate instruction, scholarly and creative research, and effective public service. The University offers degree programs at the baccalaureate, masters and doctoral levels. As one of North Carolina’s three engineering colleges, the University offers Ph.D. programs in engineering, as well as two interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in Leadership Studies and Energy and Environmental Studies. Basic and applied research is conducted by faculty and students in eight research clusters: Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology, Computational Science and Engineering, Public Health, Biotechnology and Biosciences, Leadership and Community Development, Information Technology, Transportation and Logistics, and Agriculture, Energy and Environment.

VISION STATEMENT

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University is a learner-centered community that develops and preserves intellectual capital through interdisciplinary learning, discovery, engagement, and operational excellence.