

TO: The Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate  
FROM: Senator Michael T. Benson  
DATE: October 31, 2104  
RE: November Campus Report

I am happy to provide a brief report on some of the latest happenings on campus and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

To recap the events of last week:

- On Sunday evening, Oct. 19, the ECU Board of Regents hosted a community reception in Hazard, followed the next day by a regularly scheduled Board meeting at the University Center of the Mountains. Following the meeting, we headed to Letcher County for a groundbreaking for the Lilley Cornett Woods Research Center. It's always good to hear from and share our success stories with the folks in the heart of the region we serve. The research facility, expected to open by next summer, underscores the University's commitment to regional stewardship and is poised to become a nexus of multidisciplinary research that will draw scientists and students from universities across the nation. We were also very pleased to present, on behalf of the Board, a framed resolution and plaque to Lilley Cornett On-Site Manager Robert Watts honoring his 42 years of service to the Woods, the last 37 as a loyal ECU employee.



- The true spirit of Eastern was certainly evident on Tuesday, Oct. 21, when students, staff and faculty joined hands in numerous service projects to beautify the campus. They painted, they spread mulch, and they even planted a tree in front of the Keen Johnson Building. That same spirit of camaraderie was evident at a faculty/staff luncheon that day held at the Rec Center.
- Science and research at ECU took another significant step forward on Thursday, Oct. 23, when approximately 200 attended a groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2 of the New Science Building, which will house the Departments of Biological Sciences and Geography and Geology. This 340,000-square-foot (total of both phases) facility, once completed and occupied by late 2017, will be the envy of the Commonwealth. As was said repeatedly throughout the ceremony by many who spoke, it's all about making ECU and our students more competitive. Our graduates will be even better prepared for the marketplace; we will be able to keep and attract top-notch faculty; and, by addressing STEM deficits, we will lift up the entire region and Commonwealth.





- Thanks to all who helped make the Inauguration ceremony so memorable and to all those faculty who attended and marched in the procession. We tried our best to strike a very positive and forward-thinking tone throughout the ceremony. In case you missed it, our media production folks – as always – did a fantastic job in recording the proceedings and the entire ceremony can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T17ihxYndEY>
- Homecoming is always special, of course, but even more so this year because so many of our graduates were able to participate in some of the events leading up to Saturday, Oct. 25. The crowds were great, the enthusiasm and excitement palpable, and our football Colonels ran their record to 7-1. It all made for a perfect ending to a memorable week.
- Of course, the week also featured special speakers who inspired us all, and students who impressed us with their performing talents. The presentation by celebrated poet Nikki Giovanni and the art exhibit talk and Chautauqua lecture by former diplomat Kenneth Adelman added so much to the week, as did the student talent show on Wednesday evening, Oct. 22, and the NPHC Stepshow that concluded the week's festivities on Saturday night.

### **Walls Coming Down in Department of History**

Both as a student of history and as someone who knows that we are at our best when we break down disciplinary silos, I am pleased to note that our Department of History has developed 23 career paths to facilitate a more holistic educational experience and build on the marketable skills of its graduates. It is of significant note to see that, once again, Eastern is the first institution in Kentucky and among the first nationally to take such a comprehensive approach.

These paths are designed to meld a broad liberal arts background with specific skill sets via a second major or minor in such fields as broadcasting and electronic media, journalism, public relations, advertising, paralegal sciences, economics, geography, communication studies, management, and globalization and international affairs, among others.

As Chair Dr. Chris Taylor said, it's a way to set our students apart in a highly competitive job market.

Actions like this wouldn't be possible without collaboration among several academic colleges and departments, so I want to thank all those who have worked together to help our students succeed.

### **Dr. Roger Cleveland Inducted into Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame**

It's always exciting when our faculty members earn state, regional and national honors. It seems hardly a week passes when that doesn't happen.

And it's even more exciting when those honors come not just for what our faculty do on our campus but just as much for their service off campus to society. Such is the case with Dr. Roger Cleveland, associate professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, who was inducted recently into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

One of 23 inducted in ceremonies last month, Dr. Cleveland is nationally known for his work in the areas of diversity, instructional equity, cultural competency, closing achievement gaps, learning styles, transforming school culture and school improvement planning, among other areas of expertise. He is frequently sought to conduct staff development and workshops for schools and school districts, state educational agencies and universities, and social service agencies.

In 2012, Dr. Cleveland was honored by the Kentucky Association of Blacks in Higher Education as Professor of the Year and was recognized among "Teachers Making a Difference at Eastern Kentucky University." The following year, he received the P.G. Peoples Equity and Excellence Achievement Award from the Fayette County Equity Council for his work in improving local schools.

Dr. Cleveland is the associate director of the BMW Academy at First Baptist Church of Bracktown. The Academy helps African American males prepare for college and careers through classwork, encouragement, supervision and field trips. He has also been actively involved with ECU's Call Me MISTER Program, which encourages more African American males to dedicate their lives to becoming role models in the field of education.

The late Scottie Saltsman, former ECU police officer and law enforcement instructor, was also inducted.

### **College of Justice and Safety Collaborates with Lexington Police to Re-Open Safety City**

Along with the Chair of the Board, Craig Turner, I was delighted to be on hand in Lexington Oct. 15 for the re-opening of Safety City, a joint effort of the Lexington Division of Police and our College of Justice & Safety.

Officials with the College helped to develop the curriculum and will oversee the administrative functions of the program.

It was gratifying to hear Lexington Mayor Jim Gray applaud the collaboration between the University and the Division of Police as an example of a productive partnership.

Lexington's Safety City provides educational safety programs for second- and third-grade students. The site, at 1160 Red Mile Place, includes a life-like roadway, traffic signals, and buildings, including a police station. The curriculum includes road safety, traffic rules, seatbelt safety, stranger-danger safety and even internet safety.

Thanks for your continued service to ECU and our community.

