

Charting Your Path
Strategies for Success in Academe
N.C. A&T State University
May 14, 2012
Biographies of Presenters

Dr. Ellen Plummer, Assistant Provost, Virginia Tech

Dr. Ellen Plummer has experience in higher education administration, women's and diversity issues, project management, advocacy, social work, and has worked in private non-profit, and government environments. Responsibilities have included administration, grant writing and management, fundraising, policy development, budget, resource and employee management, implementation of academic programs, teaching, academic advising, clinical supervision, counseling, organizing, and legislative advocacy. As Assistant Provost, Ellen provides administrative support to governance processes, assists in supporting faculty recruitment, retention and development initiatives, and administers grants to support victim services, safety and security.

During 2007 and 2008, Ellen served in the Office of Recovery and Support as part of a team dedicated to addressing varied needs that stemmed from the shootings that occurred in April of 2007.

Ellen joined Virginia Tech in the fall of 2000 as director of the Women's Center. Prior to Virginia Tech, Ellen worked at Duke University and was affiliated with the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Ellen has worked throughout her career on advocacy and support programs designed to promote and advance the diversity of students, staff and faculty members. Her dissertation research focused on faculty search initiatives at ADVANCE institutions. Ellen teaches in the Virginia Tech Higher Education program.

As Special Assistant to the Provost at Virginia Tech, Ellen coordinated the efforts of the Task Force on Race and the Institution and supported the process that resulted in the 2006 update to the university's strategic plan. During the 2003-2004 academic year she served as the Interim Director of the Virginia Tech Office for Equal Opportunity.

Dr. Suzanne Ortega, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of North Carolina

Dr. Suzanne Ortega was appointed as the University of North Carolina Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs in July 2011. Prior to assuming her current position, she served as Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of New Mexico. She has also served Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of Washington and the University of Missouri. Dr. Ortega's masters and doctoral degrees in sociology were completed at Vanderbilt University.

With primary research interests in mental health epidemiology, health services, and race and ethnic relations, Dr. Ortega is the author or co-author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and an introductory sociology text, now in its 8th edition. An award winning teacher, Dr. Ortega has also served on a number of review panels for NSF and NIH and has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling more than \$6 million in state and federal funds.

Dr. Ortega serves or has served on a number of professional association boards, committees, including the American Sociological Association Executive Office and Budget committee, the Executive Boards of the NASULGC (APLU) Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education and the Council of Graduate Schools, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Board, the National Academies of Science Committee on the Assessment of the Research Doctorate, the National Science Foundation's Human Resources Expert Panel, and most recently on the working group for the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology report "Engage to Excel."

Dr. Goldie Byrd, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, N.C. A&T State University

Dr. Goldie Byrd received her Bachelor of Science degrees in Professional Biology and in Biology Secondary Education at North Carolina A&T State University (N.C. A&T). She received her Ph.D. at Meharry Medical College in Microbiology. She completed Post Doctoral work at Meharry Medical College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Byrd was previously employed in the biology departments at Tennessee State University and North Carolina Central University and more recently adjunct Assistant Professor at Duke University. Throughout her tenure at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, she has been involved in teaching, research and student training, as well as in developing new curricula, creating pre-matriculation programs, Saturday academies, and developmental opportunities for students as well as fellow faculty colleagues. In 2003, Dr. Byrd joined the faculty at N.C. A&T where she served as Chair of the Department of Biology. At N.C. A&T, she is currently the Nathan F. Simms Endowed Professor of Biology and the Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, where she supports more than 200 faculty members and 3,000 students. She has raised more than 40 million local, state, federal and private

dollars to support research, research training and scholarships for students at all levels as well as junior faculty mentoring.

Dr. Byrd has exemplified excellence in teaching, research and service at the universities where she has served. Dr. Byrd's passion for teaching was recognized when she received the University of North Carolina System's Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence. Her mentoring efforts were recognized in 2010 when she received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Obama. Her business and managerial expertise was recognized with a 2010 Women in Business Award by the Greensboro Business Journal. Her research in Alzheimer's disease in African Americans has been recognized both nationally and internationally by the Alzheimer's Association as well as by the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. Dr. Byrd also has research interests in the psycho-social implications of Sickle Cell Disease in African Americans.

Dr. Byrd has served on many local, state and national organizations, panels and boards that champion science, diversity and inclusion and student advancement. They include: The North Carolina Board of Science and Technology, Leadership North Carolina Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees at Peace College, the North Carolina Task Force on Genomics and Public Health, The American Society for Microbiology Board of Education and Training, The Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood of Orange and Durham counties, and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center Board of Directors. She has also served on study sections and panels for The National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Alzheimer's Association.

Dr. Robin Coger, Dean, College of Engineering, N.C. A&T State University

Dr. Robin N. Coger is the Dean of the College of Engineering and a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at North Carolina A&T State University (N.C. A&T) in Greensboro, NC. Immediately prior to joining N.C. A&T's faculty in July 2011, Dr. Coger served as the Founder and Director of the Center for Biomedical Engineering Systems (now the Center for Biomedical Engineering & Science) and was a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science at the UNC Charlotte. Her career at UNC Charlotte spanned over 15 years, where she served as a teacher, a researcher, and an administrator – the latter of which included serving as the Interim Chairperson of her home department from 2008-2009. Dr. Coger's research expertise is in solving design and performance problems related to tissue-engineered organs, with special emphasis on liver replacement devices and their safe storage for off-the-shelf availability. Her work has been supported by funding from sources such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Whitaker Foundation; and has resulted in numerous publications in the areas of liver tissue engineering and cryopreservation, plus two patent applications. Dr. Coger has been awarded for excellence in research, teaching, and mentoring over the years, the latter of which includes earning the 2010 Harshini V. de Silva Award for graduate

student mentoring at UNC Charlotte. Dr. Coger is a fellow of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. She also serves as a peer reviewer for several journals and agencies and has recently concluded her service as an appointed member of the National Institutes of Health Center for Scientific Review's Gene and Drug Delivery Systems study section.

Dr. Coger earned a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, and holds Master of Science and Doctoral degrees from the University of California - Berkeley, all in Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Coger was also a post-doctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School and the Department of Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Timothy D. Johnston, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Psychology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dr. Johnston has been a member of the faculty at UNC Greensboro since 1982. He served as Associate Dean of the College and Director of the Center for Critical Inquiry in the Liberal Arts (1990-97) and as Head of the Department of Psychology (1997-2002) before becoming Dean in 2002.

He graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1970 with a B.Sc. in wildlife management, and holds a Master's in zoology from the University of Wisconsin (1974) and a Ph.D. in biobehavioral sciences from the University of Connecticut (1979). His research has focused on the development and evolution of animal behavior, including the study of empirical, theoretical, and historical problems. His most recent publication was the chapter on "Developmental systems theory" in *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Behavioral Neuroscience* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

As Dean, he has promoted initiatives in science and mathematics education, faculty diversity, on-line teaching, entrepreneurship (in collaboration with the School of Business & Economics), and the central role of the liberal arts in higher education. He has served as the Co-Director and then Director of the Department Chairs Seminar organized by the Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences (CCAS) and is a member of the CCAS Board of Directors.

Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun, Dean, College of Education, UNC Charlotte

Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun serves as Dean of the College of Education at UNC Charlotte where over 3000 students are preparing for education careers at the undergraduate and graduate levels. A member of the faculty since 1982, she was named Dean of the College in 2000.

A native of Huntington, WV, Dr. Calhoun was educated at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia and received the M.Ed. and Ph.D. degrees in special education from the University of Georgia. She received the honorary Doctor of Educational Sciences Degree from the Paedagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg in Germany. Her research focuses on early intervention to support the development of children with disabilities, effective teacher education, and the internationalization of teacher education. She is the author of four books and over fifty articles in her field of special education and has received numerous research grants from the U.S. Department of Education. She began her career as a classroom teacher and has taught children with special needs in Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Recent professional and community service contributions include the following:

- North Carolina in the World Preservice Teacher Education Task Force
- State Board of Education Select Committee on Lateral Entry
- Board of Directors, United Way of Central Carolina
- North Carolina Principal Fellows Commission
- Board of Directors, ArtsTeach
- Board of Directors, Socrates Academy Public Charter School
- Co-Chair, Family Campaign, *"It Takes a Gift"* UNC Charlotte \$100M Capital Campaign
- Senior Fellow, *American Leadership Forum, Charlotte Region, Cohort IX*

Dr. Nancy Fey-Yensan, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, UNC Charlotte

Dr. Nancy Fey-Yensan currently serves as the Dean of The College of Health and Human Services at UNC Charlotte. Prior to her appointment in August of 2011, she was the Associate Dean of the College of Human Science and Services at the University of Rhode Island, and served URI as the Interim Dean of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

A nutrition scientist by training, she received her Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 1995 and maintains her credential as a Registered Dietitian. Dr. Fey-Yensan has been a practicing community nutritionist for over 34 years. Her research and outreach interests, focused on populations living in poverty, obesity prevention and gerontological nutrition, have been supported by more than \$9 million in external funds. She has particular interest in creating interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty, staff and students in these areas, and to building a strong ethic of public engagement, encouraging college-community partnerships through collaborative service.

Her work has been published in a number of journals, including the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Journal of Nutrition for the Elderly, The Gerontologist, and Topics in Clinical Nutrition. She has served as panel member and as the Research Panel Manager for the USDA research program in Human Nutrition and Obesity.

Dr. Jane Tucker, Consultant Educator, COACH

Jane Tucker, Ph.D. has over twenty-five years of experience in higher education in both the administrative and teaching areas. She taught negotiation skills in the Fuqua School of Business at Duke and is currently a consultant educator for COACH through the National Science Foundation. She has also taught ADVANCE program seminars in negotiations and is adjunct faculty for the Center for Creative Leadership, where she works with leaders from both non-profit organizations and corporations.

She directed three areas of Human Resources, doing teambuilding and organizational interventions for departments at Duke and teaching leadership skills and communication strategies to administrative leaders in the university. Most recently, she worked in the information technology area, leading the Change Management team on a major computer implementation. She is currently Principal of J Tucker & Associates, LLC, specializing in negotiation, leadership skills, and executive coaching.

Dr. Tucker holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Development from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is an alumna of Wellesley College. She has published papers on learning strategies and organizational development. Her current research interest is focused on early adopters in change processes.

Dr. Yvette Huet, Professor and Interim Chair and Faculty Director, ADVANCE Faculty Affairs Office, UNC Charlotte

Dr. Huet is the interim Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and a Professor in the Department of Biology at UNC Charlotte. She is also serving as the Faculty Director for the UNC Charlotte ADVANCE Faculty Affairs Office funded through an NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award. She has recently been appointed the Program Director of the Health Sciences Research Ph.D. Program at UNC Charlotte.

Dr. Huet received her B.A. Degrees in Human Biology and Microbiology from the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS) and her Ph.D. with honors in Physiology from the University of Kansas (KUMC, Kansas City, KS). During her graduate years she received a Mid-American Universities Association Teaching Assistantship, a National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowship, and a Ford Foundation Minority Dissertation Fellowship.

Her research interests are in the areas of sex steroid hormone regulation of dimorphism in normal and abnormal physiology and the role of estrogen in early embryo development and embryo-uterine interactions. She has presented her research at numerous conferences and invited talks and has also served on a number of review panels for NSF, NIH and the DOD.

Dr. Huet has an extensive record of leadership and service in the biology and medical communities. She is currently a member of the Community Advisory Board of Mecklenburg Area Partnership for Primary Care Research (MAPPR), the Charlotte Research Institute Advisory Board and a previous Member of the National Academy of Sciences Associateship and Fellowships Office Advisory Board. She has also served on a number of professional association committees including the Membership Committee for the Endocrine Society and the Minority Affairs Committee for the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Dr. Huet has led numerous projects and initiatives designed to enhance faculty development and to increase opportunities in science and engineering for members of underrepresented groups and she currently serves as the North Carolina Liaison for the Ford Foundation Fellowship program.

Dr. Stephanie Luster-Teasley, Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering, N.C. A&T State University

Dr. Stephanie Luster-Teasley is an associate professor with a joint appointment in Civil Engineering and Chemical Engineering at North Carolina A&T State University (N.C. A&T). She specializes in Environmental Engineering and her research interests include water and wastewater treatment, physical and chemical remediation of soil and groundwater and water sustainability.

She received her B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from N.C. A&T (1996), M.S. in Chemical Engineering (2000) and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering (2003) from Michigan State University. After graduate school she consulted for two environmental engineering consulting firms then left consulting to accept a tenure-track faculty position at N.C. A&T, in the College of Engineering in 2005. As an assistant professor she has diligently worked to give back to her alma mater through teaching, service, and research. To date she has received the 2005 National Women of Color in Technology Educational Leadership Award, 2006 N.C. A&T Rookie Researcher of the Year, in 2007 she became the first African American female faculty member to achieve patent pending status for one of her inventions and was selected from national search to be Center for ASEE fellow. In 2008 she received the N.C. A&T Junior Teaching Faculty of the Year Award and in 2010 became a Department of Homeland Security Summer Research Fellow. In 2010 she led the N.C. A&T team that developed the winning National 4-H Science Youth Day experiment, which was used by millions of K-8 students across the world including Antarctica and in Guam. This experiment was featured on October 6, 2010 as part of the National 4-H Council's effort to increase the number of K-12 students interested in science and math. Partners for the National 4-H Science Youth Day Experiment included IBM who produced an on-line game to complement the Science Youth Day experiment activities.

Most recently, Dr. Luster-Teasley received the 2011 Best Paper Award for ASEE Environmental Engineering Division; the 2011 NC Triad 40 Leaders Under 40 Award and completed the 2010 UNC BRIDGES Academic Leadership for Women Program. Her work and research involvement includes over \$1,500,000 of research funding.

