



Representative McLawhorn's News from Raleigh February 15, 2007

RALEIGH – On Monday night, N.C. House Speaker Joe Hackney announced the House committees, which will meet during the 2007-08 session of the General Assembly. Rep. Marian McLawhorn, D-Pitt, was appointed as the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. She will also serve as vice chairman of the Education Subcommittee on Pre-school, Elementary and Secondary Education, and she is a member of the Health, Mental Health Reform, Pensions and Retirement, Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House, and Ways and Means committees.

“I’m honored to have been chosen by Speaker Joe Hackney to serve as the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education,” said Rep. Marian McLawhorn. “No other issue confronting the General Assembly this year is as important as improving the education of every child in North Carolina. There are many challenges facing our state, including the need to build more schools, improve our state’s graduation rate and make sure that more students go onto college. I’m excited to lead this important committee, and I’m ready to get to work.”

Other than education, Rep. McLawhorn said her top priorities in the General Assembly this year will continue to be making health care more affordable and accessible for all North Carolinians, strengthening our economy and creating good paying jobs, and reducing crime to make our neighborhoods safer. She also said that she plans to push for additional funding for a new dental school at East Carolina University.

It was also announced this week that the N.C. General Assembly will travel from Raleigh to Greenville on Thursday, March 8, 2007, to hold a special legislative session as part of Centennial Founders Day at East Carolina University. House Speaker Joe Hackney, D-Orange, and Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, D-Dare, scheduled the session at the request of State Representatives Marian McLawhorn, Edith Warren and Arthur Williams and State Senators Clark Jenkins and John Kerr, who all represent Pitt County.

The special joint session of the General Assembly will begin at 10:30 am and will honor the university’s establishment, achievements and contributions throughout its 100 years of existence. March 8, 2007, which is the 100th anniversary of the ratification of a law establishing the East Carolina Teachers Training School, is the kickoff date for East Carolina University's centennial celebration. The celebration concludes on October 5, 2009, which is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Teachers Training School.

“Bringing the General Assembly to Greenville will be a great opportunity for legislators from across the state to see first-hand what we already know: East Carolina University is a true gem in our higher education system and an extremely important part our state,” said Basnight and

Hackney in announcing the special session. "ECU has played a vital role in educating the citizens of North Carolina during the last 100 years, as well as having a positive impact on the workforce and overall economy of eastern North Carolina."

The centennial anniversary of East Carolina will celebrate the essence of the university – service, leadership, ambition and spirit – by reflecting on a proud heritage, embracing an ever-changing present, and proclaiming a bold and innovative future.

Throughout the next 2 ½ years, the university will host a number of special events in celebration of East Carolina University. For a calendar of events and additional information on the centennial celebration, go to: www.ecu.edu/centennial. Additional details on the March 8th special session of the General Assembly will be announced in the coming weeks.

The House will be back in session on Monday night at 6:30 pm.

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