Alumni Awards Celebration Remarks  
Friday, May 4 at 7 p.m.  
Student Center, 149  

President’s Remarks

Good evening everyone and welcome to our annual alumni awards celebration. We are so pleased that you have joined us tonight to honor the achievements of some of NSU’s most distinguished alumni.

Please join me in congratulating tonight’s Graduate of the Last Decade award recipient, Don J. Carey III (Class of 2010) and our six Distinguished Alumni Award winners:

- Colonel Harold L. Hagans, Jr (Class of 1971);
- Dr. Ella P. Ward (Class of 1969);
- Kennon E. Outlaw (Class of 1968);
- Dr. James W. Howell (Class of 1959);
- Lorie A. McCowan (Class of 1996); and

(President Stith leads applause.)

In 1935, Norfolk State University opened its doors in a tiny space at the local YMCA. Since then, we have become a leader in Cybersecurity, STEM, the Arts, and Business. Just last week, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam was on campus to open our new state-of-the-art Cybersecurity Complex. (I might add that the Lieutenant Governor will be on campus tomorrow to deliver the commencement address.) The University will soon also offer a Ph.D. in Computer Science and a Masters in the emerging field of Cyber-Psychology. This of course is in addition to our new Bachelor’s degree in Drama and theater.

We have also grown into a 136 acre campus with state of the art academic buildings and modern student housing, which will soon be expanded with the addition of a 730 room residential housing complex, and athletic facilities anchored by an ever expanding base of alumni and corporate supporters.
Despite our progress, there is one thing that remains unchanged. And that is this: at Norfolk State University, students will always be first and a quality higher education will always be accessible to those who come through our doors committed to the pursuit of higher learning and self-empowerment.

As an HBCU for the modern world, NSU is grounded by its history, focused on the future, and deeply committed to the success of our students.

On the road ahead we will move with a sense of urgency to:

- Expand our borders and broaden our horizons;
- Educate and shape the minds of global citizen leaders who will affect change and become leaders in the professions they choose; and
- Grow the university while continuing to make it fiscally robust and educationally vibrant for many, many years to come.

Norfolk State University has a rich history of preparing students for civic, social, and community leadership in our global society. Today, that tradition of excellence continues and tonight’s honorees are living testaments of these qualities.

NSU’s legacy was built on the foundation of alumni success. The accomplishments of our honorees validate the high quality of a Norfolk State University degree, and inspires all members of the Spartan family to dream big and to believe in what they may accomplish through their own hard work.

I encourage each member of the audience to become more involved with the University. Know that your gifts of support create opportunities for the next generation of Spartan scholars.

Once again, congratulations to each of our honorees. I speak for everyone here tonight when I say that you make all of us proud to be Spartans!

BEHOLD THE GREEN AND GOLD