



MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Mayor of Garner Defines Leadership Success for Honors Colloquium Scholars



(Raleigh, NC) “Successful leadership is realized when a person can take a group of people to a place that they otherwise can’t reach alone.” On Tuesday, September 22, 2009, Mayor Ronnie Williams shared with the Honors Scholars of Shaw University that being elected is not the criteria necessary to make one a leader. “Leaders,” he shared, “are made from experiences. “

Mayor Williams is a Vietnam War Veteran, a former Volunteer Fireman and Rescue Squad Member, a former postal worker, a member of the Jaycees and a church man. He has been the mayor of Garner since 2005, but has been serving the community for more than 22 years. “To be a good leader”, the mayor stated, “one must be a willing servant and compromiser, and a person of honest character and integrity”.

As head of the municipality of Garner, he conducts meetings, is a consummate speech maker, serves as the official “Ambassador” of the town and sometimes has voting privileges when it comes to the agenda of Garner. “I am the official tie breaker... and that doesn’t happen often,” the Mayor shared with the students.

When asked what his greatest challenge in office has been, the mayor responded that the ConAgra plant explosion on June 9 was by far the toughest experience. “Once it happened, we worked around the clock. I got six hours of sleep in three days.” With recently announced layoffs of 300 employees, the major remains concerned with the impending impact not only on the employees and business, but on the families who will be affected, the response of the Clayton community and the effects on Clayton’s

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continued growth – a town that has grown from 17,000 in 2000 to over 26,000 today.

Does leadership make you a success? The mayor responded, “Only if you embody the characteristics found in a good leader...Be able to delegate, be charismatic, smooth and passionate...a leader must be committed, compassionate, compete, courageous, fair, a good communicator, self-motivated, persistent and faithful. Remember everyone can’t lead - someone has to follow to create the balance of justice and fairness that all people deserve.”

Since its inception, The Honors College of Shaw University has provided enriching experiences and opportunities to undergraduate students that complement their educations within their chosen degree programs. And even now as The Honors College and the campus of Shaw University undergoes an exciting time of growth and change, the goal remains to pique the intellect of Shaw University students by exposing them to the elite professionals the community has to offer.

For additional information on The Honors College contact Dr. Kim Leathers at 919-716-5503 | 919-821-9354: fax or email kleathers@shawu.edu.

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Shaw University was founded in 1865 and is the oldest historically black university in the south. Shaw University is a private, co-educational, liberal arts University that awards degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The primary mission of Shaw University is teaching with the commitment to maintain excellence in research and academic programs that foster intellectual enhancement and technological skills.