



STATEMENT FROM NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
JUNE 25, 2014

This past May, North Carolina Central University made a strategic decision to pursue a different direction in leadership with the Marching Sound Machine. We are poised to welcome Mr. Thurman D. Hollins on July 1. Mr. Hollins will serve as interim director of bands. A national search will be conducted for a new permanent leader.

Administrators, staff and faculty at NCCU are committed to strengthening all musical ensembles and providing ongoing support for the programs and standards that have produced extraordinary results. We also see great potential for an even higher level of excellence in the years to come.

Dr. Ralph Barrett, who is chairman of the NCCU Department of Music in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been in communication with band members regarding the 2014-2015 season.

Student success is our No. 1 priority at North Carolina Central University. We are committed to keeping the Marching Sound Machine Band as a strong and vital component of the university's famed music portfolio.

Mr. Hollins, who formerly led band programs at St. Augustine's University and other campuses, is prepared and eager to launch an exciting and ambitious program of performances during the upcoming year. We are convinced that his considerable musical talent, education and conducting skills will bring many benefits to the Marching Sound Machine.

The university community remains dedicated to supporting all the ensembles in the Department of Music and wishes to express appreciation for the work of former faculty and staff members.

NCCU looks forward to enhancing and improving the Marching Sound Machine's overall student experience, signature sound and quality showmanship this fall and in years to come.