

AGEP-NC APRIL 2020



A Change Model for Doctoral to Faculty Diversity in STEM

Coronavirus Diaries

Our graduate students have been experiencing graduate school remotely since the coronavirus pandemic closed campuses in mid-March. We asked the Student Leadership Council members for short descriptions of how the campus closures and moving courses online have affected them.

“Professionally, I understand now the important need for humans to translate from home to school, work the gym, worship service, even taking the same route and seeing the same sights. Positively, I'm working harder and remarkably reading more research than I ever thought possible. I'm keeping up with my remaining classes, and my preliminary defense should go well.

Personally, today is my granddaughter's first birthday. She lives with her parents - my oldest son and daughter-in-law in Texas, and like all things, this semester, my wife and I will likely be celebrating it on Zoom or Google Hangouts. We talk to our youngest son every day so he's not so lonely.”—
Reginald Goodwin, Nanoengineering, NC A&T

“The pandemic caused me to defend my dissertation proposal via Zoom and is causing me to have to re-evaluate some of the human studies I proposed in my presentation. The adjustment to working from home has been somewhat hard, because it is hard to keep my days structured and productive without having access to campus and my normal work spaces.”

— Ebony Gaillard, Biology, UNCC

“The pandemic has made it pretty difficult to focus on school for those who are not used to online courses. I commend the university for its speedy transition and flexibility. We have made it to the finish line and that's what ultimately matters.” — Laquaundra Hampton, AST, Bioscience, NC A&T

“I would say it has been an abrupt climate change. For students used to a structured school schedule now having to work from home, where they may lack the resources needed to excel. I TA for a course where my professor and his parents donated their relief packages to students reaching out in need. As a society we must take this change seriously and do all we can to seek direction toward a brighter future. I now set time aside during my mentor meetings to allow members to discuss their current struggles and solutions, to help foster said direction. Someone once told me we must make a move and not wait until our neighbors tell us to. For if we wait we have become complacent and no longer aware.”-Ephraim Moges, Elec Eng, UNCC

“Since COVID-19 presented itself during my last semester on campus, I had to virtually defend my dissertation from another location. Fortunately, I was able to do it from the comfort of my parents' home and my committee was very supportive. Although graduation is not in May as I would have hoped and I have not been able to celebrate with my family and friends in person, I am grateful for online platforms and look forward to graduating and celebrating in person at a later date. With transitioning to a new position in June, I am hoping the campus opens up so I am able to retrieve my office materials and books soon.” — Whitney McCoy, Ed Psych, NCSU

Congratulations!

Whitney McCoy and Morika Williams completed their PhDs in March



Whitney N. McCoy, PhD: “*Black Girls Accepting the Grand Challenge: A Qualitative Exploration of a Summer Engineering Program's Influence on Black Girls' Racial Identity, Engineering Identity, and STEM Self-Efficacy,*” has taken a position at the University of Virginia as a Postdoctoral Research Associate on the NSF-funded Making Engineering Real (ME-REAL) project.

Morika Williams, DVM, PhD, DAACLAM: “*Long-Term Effects of Neonatal Pain on Chronically Painful Conditions,*” started as a Clinical Fellow in the Division of Comparative Medicine at UNC Chapel Hill on April 1.

