



# THE SIGNPOST

Summer 2016

#nofilter:

We're now on Instagram!



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## Registration is OPEN!!

Register today for the #NCHO2016 Annual Conference

<http://tinyurl.com/NCHO16register>

More information about this year's conference on pages 3 & 5

## From the President:

by: Chris Gregory, NCHO President

Greetings,

I hope the spring semester came to a close with as little stress as possible, and that each of you is looking forward to the summer.

The NCHO Executive Council has stayed busy and I wanted to send out a few updates:

1. **Incorporation is moving forward**, and we just took a big step in completing the process. See the update on page 6 for more details.

2. **The 1st Annual Social Justice Drive-In was a huge success**. Many thanks to Sarah Rowe and Nicole Percival for organizing this event. A very special thanks to the staff at UNC Chapel Hill for hosting, and all of the support they provided.

3. **We need a President-Elect**. We are excited for Pete Blutreich and wish him well at Georgia Southern, but we also need to fill his position. Please consider nominating someone, or submitting your own name. Anyone interested just needs to email me at:  
[Chris\\_Gregory@uncg.edu](mailto:Chris_Gregory@uncg.edu)

4. **The planning for the 2016 Annual Conference is coming along well**. Ramona Richmond and Adam Nichols are doing a fantastic job as co-chairs for the event. The Executive Council was able to visit the conference center and Embassy Suites during our retreat, and we are convinced this space will serve as a fantastic venue.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Winston-Salem this October!

Chris



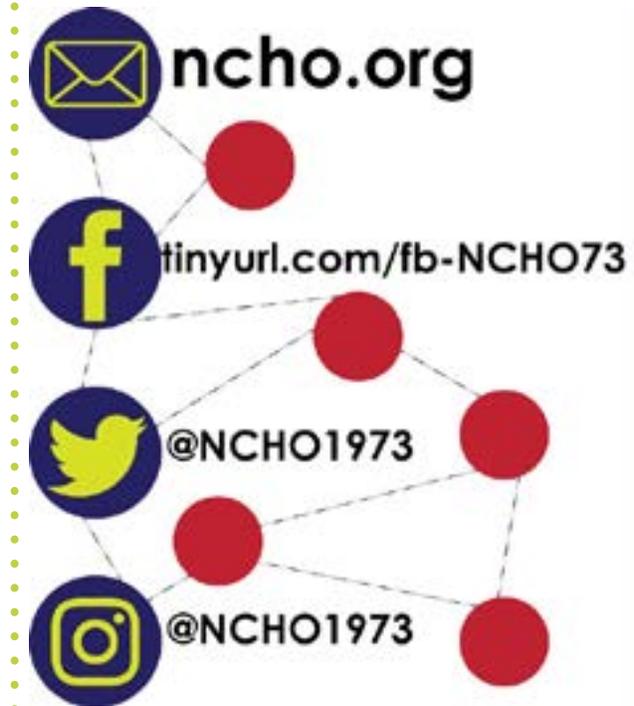
## Get Connected. Stay Informed:

by: Jessie Stellini,  
NCHO Communications Coordinator

We've decided to take a note from our students and become more invested in broadcasting our world via social media.

NCHO has had an active Facebook Page and has grown its Twitter followers significantly in the past several years, so now we're branching out even further and adding an Instagram Account to the mix.

It seems, lately, that Instagram is seeing more active use than twitter, particularly from our younger populations. So what better way to engage than to do it through photos and filters?



Get Connected. Stay Informed

We'd love to interact with you all through any and all of our social media so make sure you're following, liking, hashtagging, and posting! And be sure to use **#NCHO2016** for all of this year's Conference Posts!



Did you know there's a vibrant arts district downtown and an up and coming innovation quarter? All that said, it's no surprise that the theme for this year's conference is AIM: Arts, Innovation, and Moving Forward. We're looking forward to showcasing not only the progression of our city, but also the progression and transformation of Housing and Residence Life programs across our state. The conference will be hosted at the Embassy Suites in Downtown Winston Salem, just blocks from dozens of restaurants, museums, art gallery's, and parks. So, join us October 10-12, 2016 in Winston-Salem! We're looking forward to having you!

Ramona & Adam,  
*2016 Conference Co-Chairs*

Hey NCHO – Welcome to Winston-Salem! We're really excited to be hosting the 2016 NCHO Conference here in Camel City. You may know our city as the “home” of RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, Krispy Kreme Donuts, and Hanes brand, BUT did you know it's also the city of Arts and Innovation?

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

### Professionals:

- Early Registration, June 15 - July 31st @ 11:59pm \$135
- Regular Registration, August 1- September 9 @ 11:59pm \$145
- Late Registration, September 10 - October 10 @ 11:59pm \$155

### Grad Students:

- Early Registration, June 15 - July 31st @ 11:59pm \$85
- Regular Registration, August 1- September 9 @ 11:59pm \$85
- Late Registration, September 10 - October 10 @ 11:59pm \$85

### One Day:

- Early Registration, June 15 - July 31st @ 11:59pm \$65
- Regular Registration, August 1- September 9 @ 11:59pm \$65
- Late Registration, September 10 - October 10 @ 11:59pm \$75

Registration must be done online, and can be paid by credit card on the registration website.

<http://tinyurl.com/NCHO16register>.

## HOTEL INFORMATION:

Embassy Suites - Winston Salem  
 460 North Cherry Street  
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
 336.724.2300

Book by September 10th using this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/NCHO16hotel>

**Scholarships available:**  
<http://ncho.org/scholarships-and-awards>

# Take time to Recognize

by: Mindy Bliss, NCHO Past-President

Recognition is an important part of creating a positive environment. Each year at NCHO we take time to share the stories of individuals who are making a difference in our profession. I would like to continue to reflect on some of our past winners and their accomplishments. Please take time to reflect on who is making a difference at your institution and think about nominating them for one of the NCHO awards.

## **Excerpts from the 2014-2015 award recipients' nomination form:**

Scott Braswell Housing Function Award recipient is Rita Dills at Western Carolina University.

It is an honor and a privilege to nominate Rita Dills for the Scott Braswell Housing Function Award. Rita not only makes extraordinary contributions daily in her role as the Financial Transactions Manager of Residential Living at Western Carolina University (WCU), but she willingly shares her intellectual knowledge, talents, humor, and financial expertise with others.

Rita is an individual who reflects positivity onto others with her warm and compelling smile. She is dedicated to the success of her colleagues and students. She is the light of the Residential Living department. Rita is constantly putting others before herself, rarely takes credit for the things she takes initiative on and does it for the benefit of helping others and not for recognition.

Rita is responsible for processing and maintains of departmental purchases. She coordinates all purchasing activities for residence life staff and manages student billing. She also coordinates financial records and billing systems. She is dedicated to educating her colleagues on her position and how each component works collectively to create connectedness. A person of her caliber is charismatic and humbly confident.

The Residential Living department encompasses the ability to give support and respect the welling-being of others. Rita has excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and the capacity to relate effectively with her coworkers.

Today's Residential Living business environment calls on mentors and leaders capable of working in concert with others, able to collaborate on creative endeavors, innovate and inspire and contribute without dominating any undertaking. It is this extraordinary skill that Rita conveys to every person she encounters. Rita is not only a Financial Transaction Manager, but also a kind person who is willing to set aside her work to support a student or colleague.

Rita has dedicated 20 + years of customer service to the state of North Carolina and have persevered through all types of obstacles.

It is Rita's contributions that give life and depth to the university. She is especially gifted at understanding the college student needs and wants. She applies "best practice" business solutions blending her financial pedagogy and history to develop and implement effective solutions to problems that may arise.

In conclusion, Rita has been an outstanding, dedicated member, and role model, who possess personal integrity and thoughtfulness of others. I admire Rita's giving spirit, creative humor, and as well as the poise she radiates, no matter how demanding or pressing the situation may become. She is a true reflection of diligence and an asset to the Residential Living department, and the WCU community, and continues to display this through leadership and kindness to all.

*(Continued on pg 7: **RECOGNIZE**)*

# News From the Professional Development Committee:



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

The **professional development committee** is always looking for new members. Join our team! Our next in person meeting is in Chapel Hill on September 9, 2016.

As a member of our team you will have the opportunity to:

- × Work with great professionals from across the state
- × help to plan social events for NC professions
- × Assist with the annual conference
- × select the programs for the annual conference
- × Work on the faculty partnership award
- × Lead an initiative
- × **HAVE FUN!**

If you are interested in learning more about the committee, contact Nicole at [percivaln@ecu.edu](mailto:percivaln@ecu.edu)

# NCHO Incorporation Update

by: *Chester Miller*

*NCHO Business Manager*



As we reach the end of another fiscal year and begin planning for our next annual conference in Winston-Salem, NCHO is another step closer to attaining tax exempt status. If you are not aware, on April 1, 2016 NCHO became incorporated and registered as a nonprofit organization with the State of North Carolina. This was an important milestone in our process.

This step cleared the organization to reapply for a new Employee Identification Number (EIN) and then submit the application for tax exemption with the IRS. Because NCHO had previously applied and was issued an EIN that is associated with our current accounts with the State Employees Credit Union, it was required these accounts be closed and new accounts opened with the new EIN assigned by the IRS. I am happy to report that on June 9th, I received the EIN paving the way to transition our accounts. With our new EIN, NCHO can share that information with vendors, donors and sponsors for the Silent Auction and other business associated with planning the annual conference.

Prior to receiving the new EIN, I visited State Employees Credit Union to get detailed information regarding the steps required to transition accounts. I was informed that the State Employees Credit Union has transitioned to a consumer based Credit Union only and will no longer allow new accounts to be opened for organizations. Currently managed organization accounts were grandfathered in to the new policy and did not require NCHO to close current accounts. It means, however, that NCHO could not open a new account for the sake of associating the new EIN. We will need to transition all NCHO funds to another banking establishment. The President and the Business Manager has researched banking institutions to see if they met the following criteria:

- \* Rates and fees comparable or better than the State Employees Credit Union
- \* Significant presence or founded in the State of North Carolina
- \* Ease of access to branch locations for account signatories.

After review and research, the Executive Council believes BB&T is the best institution meeting the above criteria.

Next steps include transitioning funds to BB&T with constitutionally mandated signatories, submitting the tax exempt application to the IRS and filing copyright applications for the name and likeness of NCHO. Because the organization's paypal account is connected to the State Employees accounts for online payments, we will continue to maintain those accounts until the new accounts are established at BB&T. Should you be interested to learn more about this process, please feel free to contact Chester L. Miller via email at [clmiller@ncsu.edu](mailto:clmiller@ncsu.edu).

### Outstanding New Professional Award

Outstanding new Professional Award recipient is Trent Mortimer at Western Carolina University. Throughout my time as a live-in professional, I have never witnessed such an individual who encompasses a genuine desire in providing student leadership towards his residents and RA staff. In many ways, he exceeds the challenges and expectations that not only our department has set, but what the North Carolina Housing Officers expect in its new professionals. Having served one full academic year as a Resident Director, Mr. Mortimer has managed to create an inclusive community of 700 plus first year students, 24 Resident Assistants, and 1 Graduate Community Coordinator through the advising of creative programming initiatives and creating an interactive community as mentioned in the following testimony: "From working with him you would never dream it was his second year on staff at Western Carolina University. He does a great job with a large building of all first year students. He cultivates a learning environment for his students and RA's by leading them to answers versus just giving them. He is dedicated to being the best Resident Director he can be and always enjoys growing and learning from himself and others. We are grateful to have such a great Resident Director in our building to lead us!"

During Mr. Mortimer's first year as a Resident Director, the Department of Residential Living underwent some transition in which he stepped up to the plate. The first example of this would be when the building that he was a co-Resident Director with went to the model of having one RD because the Department needed a RD in another area on campus. Trent then inherited 12 more Resident Assistants along with another Graduate Community Coordinator. Trent did so without complaint and took the challenge with a smile on his face. Another example is when our department had two Assistant Directors

transition out and he helped to co-chair the Residence Life Training & Development Committee. Trent was a huge asset to making sure that Professional Staff and Fall RA Training went successfully and without issue.

Mr. Mortimer has shown leadership (within his first year as an RD) amongst the Resident Director team as displayed in the following testimony from his fellow team member:

"As a new professional, I really appreciate all that Trent has done to help me successfully transition into my new role. Trent has provided me with many useful materials and he is always available to answer my questions. Additionally, Trent has helped me with many situations and projects. For example, when staffing changes were made at the last minute, Trent stepped up and volunteered to help me teach my RA class. Trent is a wonderful person, a passionate professional, a great listener, and I am happy to say a good friend!"

In many ways, Mr. Mortimer has ambitions, intelligence, and accomplishments that complement the exemplary group of past recipients of this award. His drive and will to become the best servant leader possible to assist his first-year students is commendable.

The Following NCHO Executive Council Positions are up for election or appointment at this year's Annual Conference:

Communications Coordinator (appointed)

Graduate Student Representative

Member-at-Large

New Professional Representative

SEAHO Representative

Small College Representative

The election process (including the opening of the applications) will begin on September 1st. Nominations and applications are due by October 1st.

More information can be found at:

[ncho.org/executive-council/leadership-opportunities](http://ncho.org/executive-council/leadership-opportunities)

**NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR THE  
NCHO FACULTY PARTNERSHIP AND ACADEMIC  
COLLABORATION AWARD**

NCHO seeks to recognize the *outstanding contributions of an academic faculty member or partner to the housing and residence life department at their institution*. We seek to honor a faculty or staff member who has helped to bridge the gap between faculty and student affairs professionals and has enhanced the out of classroom experience of residential students.

The recipient will be honored at the 2016 NCHO conference in Winston Salem. They will also receive a free registration to the conference, hotel accommodations and the opportunity to present. For more details about the award, please visit [NCHO.org](http://NCHO.org).

**Deadline to nominate is 5PM on Friday, August 26, 2016**

Nominate here: <http://tinyurl.com/NCHO16-facpartner>

# University of North Carolina - Greensboro's Newest Additions

By: Pierre Campbell, *Coordinator of Residence Life: UNC-G*

**Christy Thomas**

joined the Coordinator for Residence Life team in October 2015 most recently from the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Christy serves as the CRL for Cone Hall.

**Sara Simms**

joined the Coordinator for Residence Life team in October 2015 most recently from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL. Sara serves as the Coordinator for Residence Life for Tower Village.

**Daniel J. Wiggins**

joined the Coordinator for Residence Life team in December 2015, most recently from Troy University

**Juliann Losey**

joined the Coordinator for Residence Life team in December 2015, most recently from Spring Hill College.

**Darron Jenkins**

joins the Coordinator for Residence Life Team most recently from Louisiana State University where he was a Graduate Assistant for Leadership.

**Kelli Thomas**

joins the Coordinator for Residence Life team most recently from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Shelton Young**

is recent graduate alumni of UNC Greensboro. He will be working with the Make a Difference House (MADH) living learning community. Shelton is an advanced standing student in the Masters in Social Work program at UNC Greensboro.

**Kirby Jones**

will be joining the HRL team as the Assistant Coordinator for Residence Life for the UNCG Explorers living learning community and the Spartan Men's Initiative. Kirby will be a first year student in the Masters in Counseling program at UNC Greensboro.

**Raquel Goode**

joins us most recently from the College Advisor High School program. A North Carolina State University alumna, Raquel will serve as the Assistant Coordinator for Residence Life for the Impact living learning community. Raquel will be a first year student in the Masters in counseling program at UNC Greensboro.

