

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Nov/Dec 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings from the [College of Science and Technology](#) (CoST) at N.C. A&T State University.

During this joyful season, we are pleased to share some of the remarkable accomplishments of our faculty, students, staff and alumni.

This fall, we welcomed nearly 200 alumni back to campus for the Alumni Homecoming Luncheon.

This edition of our newsletter spotlights our accomplished senior, Jacquelle Joseph-Lainez, as well as distinguished alumni from the Department of Biology.

We are also exceptionally proud of our students' accomplishments. The Blue and Gold Racing Team continues to make impressive progress toward the finish line; Dr. Kaylyn Reese, a recent Ph.D. graduate, was selected to participate in the NASA Dragonfly Guest Investigator Program; our undergraduate student, Tiana Marbuery, a senior in the Department of Built Environment, earned the prestigious Chris Witherspoon Scholarship; and five of our students — Joshua Lutz, Jordan Wall, Ayana Walker, Alantis Walker and Marquesa Williams — attended AfroTech 2025 as guests of Vanguard.

We feel the Aggie Pride, and we trust you do as well. Please enjoy this sampling of outstanding stories. I encourage you to share your own accomplishments with us. We would love to hear from you!



*Abdellah Ahmidouch, Ph.D., Dean,  
College of Science and Technology*

*Many of our students struggle to make ends meet and, at this time of year in particular, we want to highlight community. If you wish to contribute to the student [Aggie Source Food Pantry](#) on behalf of the College of Science and Technology, please contact Katherine Wilkerson at [kawelker@ncat.edu](mailto:kawelker@ncat.edu)*

### Alumni Luncheon and State of The College Address



The College of Science and Technology welcomed approximately 200 alumni back to campus for the annual Alumni Homecoming Luncheon. This year's gathering followed the inaugural Pre-GHOE State of the College Virtual Address, which connected alumni nationwide for an engaging update on the college's growth, achievements and future direction.

The luncheon brought together graduates, faculty and current students for an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun centered around celebrating the college's legacy of innovation and excellence. Guests enjoyed a delicious cookout-themed lunch while Dean Ahmidouch and the department chairs shared an overview of the college and departmental achievements. The energy reflected the strong sense of pride and community that CoST cultivates among its students and alumni. We are deeply grateful to all who attended and helped make the luncheon a great success.

Continued engagement and support from alumni strengthen our college and inspire the next generation of scientists, technologists and innovators. We look forward to welcoming everyone virtually and in person next year for another memorable celebration.

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## Biology Alumni Shine at 2025 Honors Convocation

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The Department of Biology celebrated its outstanding alumni and student achievements during the 2025 Fall Convocation held Oct. 9 in Harrison Auditorium, followed by a luncheon at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center. The event showcased the department's long-standing tradition of excellence and leadership within CoST.

Senior biology major Jacquelle Joseph-Lainez was selected by the Office of Alumni Relations as the undergraduate highlight speaker at the luncheon. A member of the Honors College, a MARC/URISE Scholar and inaugural Du Bois Scholar at Harvard University, Joseph-Lainez's research on bacterial resistance to silver in the Misty Thomas Lab has contributed to understanding the global issue of antibiotic resistance. Her experiences include advanced qualitative and quantitative research in maternal health, multiple award-winning presentations, and a commitment to service through Big Brothers Big Sisters, Best Buddies, A World of STEM, and Beta Beta Beta (TriBeta) Biological National Honor Society.



*Department of Biology at Convocation Reception (l to r): Jacquelle Joseph-Lainez; Tabatha Williams; Professor/Chair Checo J. Rorie; Reyniah Massey*

Among the distinguished alumni recognized by CoST was Tabatha Williams '11, founder and CEO of Hall Pass and Prompt Solutions. Williams, an AI educator and entrepreneur, is redefining how technology and education intersect. Her Hall Pass apparel line celebrates HBCU culture, while Prompt Solutions empowers individuals to use AI for business efficiency. As a dedicated mentor and advisory board member for The Honors College, Williams continues to inspire future Aggie leaders.

The Velma R. Speight Young Alumna Award was presented to Reyniah Taylor Massey, M.H.S. '20, a program specialist for the Pre-Professional Scholars Program and adjunct instructor in the Department of Biology. Massey's teaching, mentorship and research in inclusive excellence within STEM education exemplify the department's mission to prepare future scientists and health professionals for transformative leadership. Together, these honorees reflect the enduring excellence of A&T Biology alumni.

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## Blue and Gold Racing Towards the Finish Line

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*Pictured (l to r): William Edwards, Kelton Elias, William Kerns, Isaiah Gibbs, Jacob Perry, Devon Goodman, Anansi Coleman*

The Department of Applied Engineering Technology is proud to announce the launch of an exciting new student organization: Blue and Gold Racing, a racing team focused on the Formula SAE Electric collegiate competition. This program challenges students to design, build, and race a fully electric formula-style car, providing hands-on experience in cutting-edge automotive technology. Students in the Applied Engineering Technology and Automotive Engineering Technology programs are joined by students in the Electronics Technology, Physics, and Engineering programs to form this new team.

The team has already made significant strides, securing major corporate sponsorships from industry leaders such as Duke Energy, Caracal Corporation, and Cummins, alongside generous individual contributions. These partnerships not only provide financial support but also connect students with real-world engineering networks.

Beyond design and sponsorship, students are sharpening their manufacturing skills through collaborations with local organizations and learning essential techniques like welding and fabrication. This practical experience complements classroom learning and prepares students for careers in advanced engineering fields.

The Formula SAE Electric competition emphasizes innovation, teamwork and technical excellence through a multi-stage competition, including stages in drag racing, autocross, and endurance races. Blue and Gold Racing is eager to showcase the talent and determination of Aggies nationally and globally, demonstrating what can be achieved when creativity and collaboration combine.

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## Kaylyn Reese Selected for the NASA Dragonfly Guest Investigator Program

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The Department of Physics is delighted to announce Kaylyn Reese, a Ph.D. graduate in applied physics, has been selected for a two-year internship with the NASA Dragonfly Guest Investigator Program, led by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Space Exploration Sector.

This incredible opportunity will allow Kaylyn to collaborate with esteemed mentors from Washington State University and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and contribute to groundbreaking research on Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Her work will focus on studying Titan's ocean under conditions of low temperature and high pressure, simulating the extreme environments found on this fascinating celestial body.

"My prior training in physics has been pivotal in preparing me for this role," said Reese. "Through rigorous coursework and research, I developed a strong foundation in experimental techniques and problem-solving, which helped me secure this honor."

Under the guidance of the Dragonfly Program mentors, she will use advanced laboratory simulations to replicate Titan's unique conditions, which will help to better understand the moon's subsurface ocean and its potential for supporting life.

"By exploring Titan's ocean and its behavior under extreme conditions, we can gain valuable insights into the moon's geophysical processes, its potential habitability, and the broader mechanisms of planetary evolution," said Reese. "This work can also inform the search for life beyond Earth. I am honored to contribute to NASA's Dragonfly mission and look forward to sharing the discoveries made along the way."



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## Tiana Marbuery Awarded the Chris Witherspoon Scholarship

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Tiana Marbuery, a senior in the Department of Built Environment, was awarded the Chris Witherspoon Scholarship in July 2025, the highest scholarship given by the North Carolina Society of Land Surveyors Scholarship Foundation.

Marbuery is pursuing a degree in geomatics, serving as co-chair of the York Technical College Alumni Connection Board and contributing as a scholarship donor.

Marbuery is a land surveyor with six years of experience and an active member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), North Carolina Society of Surveyors, the NSPS Young Surveyors Network for North Carolina, and Ladies in Land.

In addition to her surveying career, she is a real estate investor passionate about creating affordable housing opportunities. Her work blends technical expertise with a commitment to equity, education and community impact. Her diversified skills and achievements highlight the talent here at N.C. A&T.

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## The College of Science and Technology Represents at AfroTech 2025

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*Pictured (l to r): Joshua Lutz, Jordan Wall, Ayana Walker, Alantis Walker and Marquesa Williams show their Aggie Pride*

*under the AfroTech banner.*

For the third consecutive year, The College of Science and Technology proudly participated in AfroTech, the nation's largest technology conference for Black professionals. The 2025 conference drew over 40,000 attendees to Houston, Texas, marking another record-setting year for the event.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Vanguard, four information technology students, Alantis Walker, Joshua Lutz, Jordan Wall, and Marquesa Williams, attended AfroTech 2025 as Vanguard's guests. Notably, Wall is currently completing a co-op with Vanguard, the first N.C. A&T student to hold a Vanguard co-op position.

In addition to attending dynamic sessions covering topics such as "The Psychology of Cybersecurity" and "Advanced Figma and No-Code Product Testing", students explored the highly anticipated Expo Hall, which featured more than 168 companies and booths. Major employers including Netflix, Pinterest, Snapchat, Deloitte, Nintendo and Abbvie offered valuable insight into internship and career opportunities. Several students secured next-day interviews for various roles.

Beyond the career connections, AfroTech continues to be an exceptional networking experience. Students engaged with peers from other universities, corporate representatives, industry leaders, and proud N.C. A&T alumni. The Houston Alumni Chapter hosted a mixer to welcome all visiting N.C. A&T students. The experience concluded with students attending Vanguard's exclusive VIP reception where they connected with Vanguard team members and executives in a relaxed and celebratory setting.

CoST is extremely grateful to Vanguard for the experience and looks forward to AfroTech 2026!

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## Communications and Marketing Committee:

- William Bowen (Computer Systems & Technology)
- Stefan Cooper (Chemistry)
- Alesia Ferguson (Dean's Office)
- Lynnell Johnson (Math)
- Yu-Tung Kuo (Applied Engineering Technology)
- Kiesha Madkins (Student Success Office)
- Connie Mayberry (Applied Science & Technology)
- Farr Niere (Biology)
- Abdella Salem (Built Environment)
- Jing Zhang, Chair (Physics)



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