

## **Dr. Sidney H. Evans, Sr.**

The late Dr. Sidney H. Evans Sr. was a pioneer, scholar, educator and leader, who left a legacy of academic achievement that continues at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to this day.

After 33 years at N.C. A&T, Evans retired in 1989 as the research director and associate dean for agricultural research in what was then the School of Agriculture. In these roles, Evans was responsible for all projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture Evans-Allen Program. The annual research budget averaged \$2 million, and was distributed among 20 – 32 projects and 18 research scientists and supporting technical and administrative staff.

During his tenure at N.C. A&T, he served as chair of the Department of Economics in the School of Business and Economics, where he was instrumental in the establishment of the economics major. While serving in this role, he obtained funding to develop the Transportation Institute, and served as interim director. During his tenure as chair, the department obtained funds from the National Science Foundation to establish a learning research laboratory in the School of Business and Economics. This grant also resulted in the establishment of two new courses. Evans also served as the director of the AFR/AID Cooperative Work Study Program, which was more commonly known as the “Economics Internship Program” for minorities, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

He also served as chair of a newly reactivated Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in the School of Agriculture, which he developed by creating and implementing a master’s program in agricultural economics, which was the first graduate level program in the school. Evans coordinated all agricultural economics and social sciences research funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Other research and grantsmanship activities included serving as the project director for two research projects funded by Evans-Allen; leading negotiations, and then serving as director for the 211-D Grant from USAID; acquiring the Title II Grant for expansion of the agribusiness programs; obtaining funding from USDA for establishing the Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) <http://www.ncat.edu/academics/schools-colleges1/saes/agresearch/rap.html> for high school students, that continues to this day.

Evans became the first person from N.C. A&T to participate in an overseas program, which he accomplished as an N.C. A&T employee on a consortium contract with the USAID. Evans was assigned to a two-year tour taking place in 1972 and ’73 to Africa as a visiting professor, first at the University of Makerere in Kampala, Uganda and then at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. His responsibilities were similar at both these universities: He taught graduate and undergraduate courses, developed research and supervised the theses of students pursuing the master’s in rural economy. He also served on several committees at these universities, and on some government committees in the host countries.

In addition to his academic achievements, Evans still found time to be active in the larger community. He served as a marketing and research consultant for B&C Associates of High Point, N.C., conducting marketing studies and other studies for clients of the firm. He was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them the George Washington Carver Public Service Award and induction into the Carver Hall of Fame at Tuskegee Institute, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Evans also served on numerous national, regional and local boards and committees, and had many publications to his credit.

An Oct 15, 2000 Greensboro News & Record notice announces that Evans was among three agricultural leaders to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.