

MEMORANDUM

TO Division of Student Affairs

FROM Virginia D. Hardy PhD, Vice Chancellor

DATE: June 30, 2022

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION

The American Council on Education (ACE) has shared institutional practices around campus mental health and well-being play a critical role in student success. Students with poor mental health are at risk of a lower GPA, discontinuous enrollment, or dropping out. Best practices around campus mental health and well-being can therefore benefit both the institution and society at large by helping ensure that everyone in the community thrives.

Additionally, a recent survey showed campus mental health is a top-of-mind issue for college presidents and chancellors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At East Carolina University and in Student Affairs, we are all aware of the mental health crisis as well as the need for proactive efforts toward well-being. As this is such a high campus priority, we must align our resources, services and programs to support this effort.

I am pleased to announce the creation of a new unit within the ECU Division of Student Affairs called Health and Well-Being. This unit will create a comprehensive, integrative behavioral health approach to address student care and well-being.

Effective July 1, 2022, the following departments will be reorganized to join the Health and Well-Being unit:

- Campus Recreation and Wellness
- Center for Counseling and Student Development
- Student Health Services

Also, effective July 1, 2022, I am happy to announce the appointment of Dr. LaNika Wright as the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Health and Well-Being. Dr. Wright will also continue to serve in the role as Director in Student Health and will join the Student Affairs Executive Council.

Dr. LaNika Wright joined the health center staff in July 2004. She earned her BS in Nursing at East Tennessee State University. She later attended UNC Chapel Hill where she earned her MSN and was certified as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner through the National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties. She earned her PhD from East Carolina University in 2014. Her interests include Women's Health, STI counseling and health promotion and prevention.

ECU joins schools in the UNC System, throughout the region and across the country who have created a campus unit focused on health and well-being including, UNC Charlotte, South Carolina, the University of Utah and Ohio State University.

I am appreciative to our leaders in the Dean of Students and Student Involvement and Leadership as well as the departments involved in this reorganization for their commitment to exploring and finding solutions to support the care and well-being of our students.

We share the common belief with our colleagues at NASPA that student affairs educators and professionals are the driving force behind the essential systems supporting student well-being. This re-organization provides us the opportunity to ensure our practices are not just reactive rather they give us the opportunity to get ahead of emerging trends and make strong data-driven decisions.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Wright. She will oversee three consistently successful and impactful departments who have been making their mark for years and will take new strides under her leadership.