

Greetings Fellow Aggies,

My name is **Charles P. Taylor**, Class of 2009 alumnus of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. I am the co-founder of the student organization **Students With Interest In Music (SWIM) and I Am Music and Media**, a former **WNAA radio host**, and a former **Vice President of the Council of Presidents**. I'm reaching out to invite your department to partner with us in bringing the **Emmy-nominated, Peabody Award-winning documentary** *Daughters* to campus for a special Homecoming screening and community conversation.

Now streaming on Netflix, *Daughters* tells the story of Black girls navigating the emotional toll of having an incarcerated parent. It is a powerful portrait of love, restoration, and community. It's more than a film. It's a mirror for our culture and a message for our mission. The film also explores broader themes of social justice and family resilience. It sheds light on the challenges of jail visitation, the cost and barriers of communication between incarcerated parents and their children, and the emotional toll of disconnection. Through the lens of the Date With Dad program, it examines the need for rehabilitation, human connection, and the role of family bonds in reducing recidivism. It critiques systemic inequities while celebrating the humanity of those impacted, offering an opportunity to reimagine what justice, healing, and connection can look like.

But this letter isn't just about a screening. It's about being an **Aggie** and what that means in action.

Let me tell you about **Asani**.

She's a brilliant young Black girl who came through our program at *Girls For A Change*. I wrote her recommendation letters. I watched her grow from a quiet thinker to a confident leader. I talked to her about A&T, about who we are, what we stand for, and why she belongs here. Not only did she apply, but she was also **accepted into the Honors Program**. She will be a freshman this coming school year.

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Asani is what our organization produces. And Asani is exactly who A&T needs.

Supporting this screening is a small but meaningful step in a larger mission. **Preparing Black girls for the world, and the world for Black girls.**

And what better time to do it than **Homecoming, GHOE, the Greatest Homecoming On Earth?**

We come together to fellowship. We come together to laugh and renew bonds. We make an economic impact on the local community like no other. But now, let's leverage that energy for something more. Let's bring social change to the greatest minds, the most upwardly mobile. Let's activate the DuBois Talented Tenth and give this movement a launch that only Aggies can give.

Let's make GHOE 2025 the one with the biggest social impact, a ripple that doesn't just echo through Greensboro but reverberates in the annals of history. Four Aggies changed history standing up to injustice. Let's remember our roots and move forward in that same spirit, not just for us, but for those who will come after us.

That same spirit lives in the **Center of Excellence for Social Justice (CESJ)**, a hub of interdisciplinary innovation named in honor of the A&T Four. Programs like the Power of Four Fellows, Building Bridges, and the Scholar Activist-in-Residence show that A&T is still investing in truth and transformation. But what CESJ is doing academically, *Girls For A Change* has been doing on the ground for over 20 years.

It all started with a **Girl Action Team**. A small group of girls came together to explore their relationships with their fathers. They wanted to strengthen those bonds and celebrate their presence. From their vision came the now-legendary **Date With Dad Dance**, and later an entire **Date With Dad Weekend**. When some girls couldn't attend because their fathers were incarcerated, they still showed up. They

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wrote letters to the Richmond City Justice Center and created a dance in the jail, **Dance of Their Own**. That moment is the origin story of Daughters.

Today, *Daughters* is the tip of a very big spear. The movement started with young Black girls who were championed by a community that believed in them. That community included me.

I appear in the film because I was there. From the first Pride Hall opened, to dances in the jail, I was present. I initially got involved through radio promotions in Richmond, VA, working with local late legend Mitch Malone. One event turned into a contract, which turned into a calling. I started running the Date With Dad Weekend, then volunteering, and eventually became the Treasurer of *Girls For A Change*.

Before A&T, I was filming and producing in Richmond Public Schools. I shot sports, edited video, and even produced music videos on data tape. At A&T, I brought those talents with me. I was the first to book Trey Songz in NC at Club Touch, co-founded SWIM to address the music business knowledge gap, and leveraged resources like WNAA and the mass communication editing labs to bring internships from AllHipHop.com to campus.

All of those skills helped me in my career, helped me grow GFAC, and now help me as I run my own business in financial services. But my bias has always remained. I believe in business as a tool to uplift our people. And I'm asking you to lean in.

When I graduated from A&T and lined up in the Coliseum, my mass comm friends were surprised to learn I was a business major. What they didn't see was what I learned in my business classes, which was the most important variable in any group project, the people. I learned that if you gather the right minds and the most cooperative spirits, you can produce not only great work but impactful work.

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That's why I'm calling on all of you, Business, Mass Communication, English, Social Justice, Psychology, and beyond. It takes collaboration to produce something great. Let our voices be heard. Let our stories be told. Let our pride live on. And let our collaboration inspire the youth who are watching us.

The **Girl Action Team** and the **CESJ Fellows Program** are doing the same work. One is a community pipeline. One is an academic initiative. It's time we strengthen the bridge between them.

As the largest HBCU in the nation, we must lead. When we uplift these stories, we create space for more Asanis. We strengthen the bridge between our campus and our community. We remind ourselves that Aggie Pride is more than a chant. It is a charge.

As an Aggie, I've always believed in our mantra, **Achieving Great Goals In Everything**. This letter is a spark. Your response, your execution of its spirit, is how we turn that spark into impact.

Let's not just show a movie. Let's show up for each other. Let's uplift our greatest assets: our bonds, our brilliance, and our care.

**Can I get an AGGIE PRIDE?!**

I look forward to working with you and seeing you at the screening.

With respect and community,



**Charles P. Taylor**

NC A&T SU Class of 2009

Co-Founder, SWIM, IAM Music and Media

Former WNAA Radio Host

Former Vice President, Council of Presidents

Treasurer, Girls For A Change

Aggie Always