

SE (SHAI) GHANA

PEACE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

KING ADAMTEY IN THE NEWS

NCCU Will Send Students to Ghana

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By Paul Bonner, *The Herald-Sun*

N.C. Central University has allied with Ghana for a student exchange program in education, health care and business.

NCCU Chancellor James Ammons spent eight days in the West African nation in late June and early this month as the guest of the Rev. Kingsley Fletcher, who is founder and pastor of Life Community Church in southern Durham.

Fletcher, a U.S. citizen, is a native of Ghana, where he is a hereditary king among the Se people of Ghana with the title "suapolor," which translates as "pathfinder" or "waymaker."

In Ghana, he is known by his royal name of Drolor Bosso Adamtey I.

Ammons' visit cemented an agreement in which NCCU will send students to the traditional region of the Se, who formerly were known as Shai. The area is in the southeastern part of Ghana, not far from the capital and largest city, Accra.

"There is a tremendous need for additional schools, and if they're going to have additional schools, they need more teachers," Ammons said.

Starting next summer, students in NCCU's School of Education will work with administrators, teachers and students in Ghana, he said, and Ghanaians will pursue education degrees at NCCU.

Also, selected students in NCCU's School of Nursing and majors in health education will work in Ghanaian clinics, hospitals and communities.

"As you can imagine, there are many health challenges that the people of Africa and this region are being confronted with," Ammons said.

In addition, NCCU business students will impart knowledge about how to raise capital and write business plans.

"There is an entrepreneurial spirit in Ghana you don't see in a lot of other places," Ammons said. "Everybody who can sell and market goods and products is doing it."

Ammons arrived in Ghana June 22, two days after Ghana's national soccer team defeated the United States in the FIFA World Cup tournament in Germany, and he took a little good-natured ribbing on the subject.

He met with Ghana's vice president and other officials and appeared on a television news program. The show is widely seen, he decided the next day as he traveled to a meeting of West African university leaders.

"As we stopped along the way, people knew who I was," he said.

In a telephone interview Wednesday from Ghana, where he is spending the summer, Fletcher said his people will benefit from the alliance.

"I see the need of preparing the next generation through education," he said. "We are partnering to make sure every child in the Se kingdom is educated. We are awfully excited about it."

In the longer term, NCCU aims to establish a permanent global education center in the region, Fletcher and Ammons said.