



# FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ... A voice for good government  
January-February-March 2000

You're Invited to

"An Evening with Four Journalists"

Wednesday, February 23, 2000

6:00 p.m. reception

7:00 p.m. dinner

Program to follow

Grandover Conference Center

Exit 120 off I-85 South of  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Tickets \$75

To order, call Laurita Ray at (919) 832-2839,  
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## An Evening with Four Journalists

The Center is pleased to announce that Carol Lin, national co-anchor of "NewsStand" and "Early Edition" for CNN will headline "An Evening with Four Journalists" on Wednesday, February 23 in Greensboro. All Center members are invited to the event, which also will feature John Bason, co-host of "Legislative Week in Review" on statewide public television and host of Time Warner Cable's "Legislative Update" program; Allen Johnson, editorial page editor of *The News & Record* in Greensboro; and Rolfe Neill, former publisher of *The Charlotte Observer*. We are pleased to have these distinguished journalists participate.

The panelists have been asked to discuss:

- ◆ Key issues facing North Carolina and the country in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
- ◆ The character of North Carolina and what makes it different from other states;
- ◆ What they see ahead in the next era of state politics and leadership;
- ◆ The state of journalism (newspapers, radio, television, and the Internet) in North Carolina and nationally, especially in coverage of state-level policy issues and state governments.

Carol Lin is co-anchor of *CNN NewsStand*. Combining the worldwide editorial and newsgathering resources of CNN and Time Inc., CNN NewsStand examines the most pressing news and issues of the day through a mix of hard-news reporting and long-form, newsmagazine segments unparalleled in network television. In addition to her CNN NewsStand responsibilities on Fridays, Lin is also co-anchor of *CNN's Early Edition*, airing weekdays from 7-9 a.m. on CNN/U.S. Lin is based at CNN headquarters in Atlanta.

Recently, Lin spent more than a month in post-war Kosovo, reporting on the rebuilding effort, the return of the refugees and the arrival of the international peacekeeping forces. She also covered the Columbine High School shooting from Littleton, Colorado. Prior to joining CNN in 1998, Lin was a national correspondent and substitute anchor for ABC's "Good Morning America," reporting also for "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings." Lin joined ABC News in 1995 as a Los Angeles-based correspondent.

Lin has received a number of honors for her work, including RTNDA Awards for Best Investigative Reporting in 1995 and Best Breaking News in 1988. She also received the National IMAGE Award by the Organization of Chinese Americans and received the Award of Excellence by the Minorities in Journalism Association of Los Angeles.

The Center event, co-sponsored by the N.C. Cable Telecommunications Association, will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at the Grandover Conference Center on I-85 (exit 120) south of Greensboro. It will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. with the program to follow. As in our "Evening with Bill Friday and Four Governors" in 1996 and "An Evening with Four Educators" in 1998, Time Warner Cable will videotape the program for later broadcast on cable systems across the state. The two previous programs both won national "Communicator Awards" for excellence in cable programming.

Center members will receive a "Hold That Date" card and an invitation. The "Hold That Date" card indicated that national public television talk show host Charlie Rose would originally moderate the discussion, but Rose canceled due to a "60 Minutes II" assignment. Individual tickets are \$75, which includes dinner, the evening with the journalists, and a small donation to the Center. Patrons (\$200) will receive two tickets and recognition in the Event Program. Tables for 10 may be purchased for \$1,000 with priority seating and recognition in the program. We hope you will join us.

## North Carolina's Citizen Legislature – Threatened with Extinction?

Is North Carolina's citizen legislature threatened with extinction? Many legislators say yes, citing longer and longer legislative sessions as evidence. But the term "citizen legislature" means different things to different people, and how one defines the term dictates how and even whether the citizen legislature should be preserved.

What is a citizen legislature? Does North Carolina still have one? Does it matter? Look to the next edition of *North Carolina Insight* for a thorough discussion of the issue. Our research shows at least five indicators that North Carolina is moving toward a full-time legislature. They are: (1) longer sessions; (2) more special sessions (on crime, redistricting, child health insurance, and Hurricane Floyd) to deal with issues that arise when the legislature is out of session; (3) more study commissions convening between sessions; (4) appropriations committees meeting between the two most recent sessions; and (5) special investigative committees (on education and transportation) taking on a life of their own both during and between sessions.

The citizen legislature traditionally has been considered one comprised primarily of ordinary citizens who hold other jobs and who give up part of their year to come to Raleigh and pass laws that govern the state. Some suggest limits on session length as a means of preserving it. Others define a citizen legislature as one broadly representative of the populace in terms of race, gender, and work experience. Advocates for this model tend to propose higher pay to allow people from more walks of life to serve. Still others view a citizen legislature as one in which all citizens can afford to run for office and to serve – which suggests reforms such as public financing of legislative campaigns or higher legislative pay. Finally, some are convinced that North Carolina's population has grown so fast, the state budget so large, and the affairs of state so complex that the job of making laws and providing legislative oversight can no longer be handled by a part-time body. These lawmakers say the current system is a full-time job with part-time pay. They believe the best answer is to abandon the notion of a part-time legislature in favor of a professional or full-time legislature.

Despite a plethora of opinions on the subject, the Center says the N.C. General Assembly has engaged in too little intentional deliberation about what it should be and how it should get there. In the article, co-authors Mike McLaughlin and Ran Coble of the Center say, "It's time for the legislature to make a conscious decision on what it wants to be. The General Assembly either needs to take concrete steps to preserve the citizen legislature or take steps to become a professional legislature. What we have now is decision by drift, which gives the state's citizens the advantages of neither model." Look in your mailbox soon for your issue of *Insight*, which includes this research as well as an analysis of predatory lending.

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## Center Prepares Study of Higher Education Governance in All 50 States

Part II of the Center's study of the Governance of Public Universities is well underway. This second report in a four-part series compares the types of public university governance structures currently found in all 50 states. It reviews the basic types of structures enacted by legislatures throughout the country and compares other systems to our own in North Carolina.

States typically have at least two basic goals in mind when organizing their university systems: (1) the governance of their public colleges and universities, and (2) statewide coordination of higher education policy and planning. The **Consolidated Governing Board System** is the most common structure used to accomplish these goals. The 24 states with this system have either one or two boards whose primary functions and responsibilities relate to the actual control or governance of their constituent institutions. North Carolina has adopted this model, with the UNC Board of Governors governing all 16 campuses in the public university system.

The 24 additional states with a **Coordinating Board System** have central boards with either regulatory or advisory powers. The primary distinction between a **Regulatory Coordinating Board** and an **Advisory Coordinating Board** is that a regulatory board has the power to approve new academic programs and terminate existing programs. By contrast, an advisory board only has the power to review academic programs and make recommendations, with no guarantee that its recommendations will be adopted. Further, the regulatory board may exercise some degree of regulatory power over submission of budgets for public universities to the legislature. Twenty-one states have a Regulatory Coordinating Board System, while three have an Advisory Coordinating Board System.

A **Planning Agency System** is the final type of structure for a higher education system. Only two states -- Delaware and Michigan -- rely on such a system. In these states, the central board is a Planning Agency with no power to govern the state's institutions of higher education or to coordinate statewide higher education policy and planning. Instead, governance is the responsibility of institutional boards or multi-campus boards, while coordination occurs only through voluntary collaboration of university leaders.

This report likely will be released in March. The Center's first report, *Reorganizing Higher Education in North Carolina: What History Tells Us About Our Future*, was released in June 1999. It showed that the state's public university system faces many of the same issues today as it did when it was created in 1971. It is available for \$20 from the Center. Call (919) 832-2839, fax (919) 832-2847, or order on the web at [www.ncinsider.com/nccppr](http://www.ncinsider.com/nccppr).

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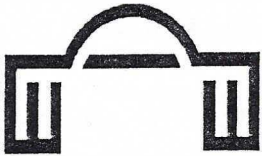
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### In Memory of Early Center Director Mercer Doty

The Center lost a dear friend and one of its key early leaders when Mercer M. Doty died at 76 years of age on December 14, 1999. Mercer directed the Center in 1978-79 after the Center was incorporated in September 1975 and opened its doors in 1977.

Mercer had already served the state as director of State Government Reorganization under Gov. Robert W. Scott and as the first director of the Fiscal Research Division for the N.C. General Assembly when it was created in 1971. He brought to the Center a wealth of knowledge of state government experience in both the executive and legislative branches. He became director in 1978 and helped establish the Center's reputation for thorough research and for being an independent watchdog on state government. Mercer authored or co-authored early Center reports on *The Advisory Budget Commission*, *Which Way Now: Economic Development and Industrialization in North Carolina*, the state's oil recycling facility, and how the state bought and sold land. Current Center director Ran Coble says, "Mercer Doty was my mentor and my friend. He instilled key values in the Center that live on today, and we all hope our work continues to honor his memory. We send our condolences to his wife Susan, his children Mark and Virginia, and the rest of his family." Several Center members have made contributions to the Center in memory of Mercer, including Jack Betts, Elaine Marshall, Jim Newlin, and Coble.



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