



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY


- WHEREAS,** Wake Forest University was founded as Wake Forest Institute in Eastern North Carolina on the former Calvin Jones plantation in 1834; shortly thereafter it was renamed Wake Forest College; and
- WHEREAS,** the first president, Samuel Wait, and all of the antebellum presidents owned enslaved people, and many early trustees were slaveholders; and
- WHEREAS,** enslaved people helped build and maintain Wake Forest College; and
- WHEREAS,** the University knows that at least 16 enslaved individuals were bequeathed in estates to Wake Forest College, all of whom were then sold to benefit the institution.; and
- WHEREAS,** in these respects and others, Wake Forest University was a full participant in the slave economy of the mid-1800s, thereby falling far short of its aspiration to serve all of humanity; and
- WHEREAS,** when Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in 1956 the assets it had accumulated were used to establish the institution in its new home; thus the benefits derived from slavery continue to sustain the University to this day; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 20, 2020, at Founders' Day Convocation, with the full support and assent of the Board of Trustees, President Nathan O. Hatch, on behalf of Wake Forest University, formally and unequivocally apologized for participating in and benefiting from the institution of slavery; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Trustees believes that it is important that it, as the governing body of Wake Forest University, makes its own unequivocal apology; it is, therefore
- RESOLVED,** that the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees apologizes for the exploitation and use of enslaved people – those both known and unknown – who helped create and who served the University through no choice of their own, and hereby recommits to acknowledging past wrongs in order to pursue healing so that we may live up to the University's core value of *Pro Humanitate*;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees acknowledges that a true apology requires action and meaningful changes; that the Board hereby recommits to understanding more fully the injustices of the past and present and pledges to work together with the Wake Forest community to address them.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees on April 24, 2020.



Gerald F. Roach, Chair
Board of Trustees
Wake Forest University



Nathan O. Hatch, President
Wake Forest University



Herman E. Eure, Vice Chair
Board of Trustees
Wake Forest University



Matthew A. King, Vice Chair
Board of Trustees
Wake Forest University