

## *Plenary Speakers*

### **OPENING SPEAKER**

**Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education**



Dr. Jim Purcell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, previously served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Jim actively participated in the development of the Oklahoma State Regents Public Agenda and played a key leadership role in advancing two of the six agenda items: a state-wide adult degree completion program and higher education's response to the healthcare worker shortage.

He has served in positions in institutional research, planning, and assessment in public, private, two-year, and four-year institutions in Alabama, Louisiana, and Georgia.

Academic preparation includes a BS in Public Administration from Auburn University, an M. Ed. in Counseling from the University of Montevallo, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama.

Jim's efforts in institutional effectiveness are wide and varied with extensive experience in student placement, academic and student affairs program review, academic program development, program entrance requirements, course evaluations, grade distributions, student retention and graduation. He has served as a speaker for ACT on student assessment in 5 states and served as a keynote speaker for 6 state or regional conferences on institutional research and assessment. He has served as a consultant to more than a dozen college campuses, organizations and businesses.

### **TUESDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

**Dr. Thomas Conway, Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Fayetteville State University**



In July 2008 Dr. Thomas Conway joined the Fayetteville State University (FSU) community as Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff. In that capacity he is charged with ensuring that the vision of Chancellor James Anderson for FSU is effectively implemented. Coordination of the chancellor's staff and with the other vice chancellors and their units is essential in this role.

Prior to his appointment at FSU Dr. Conway served as Dean of Undergraduate Academic Programs at North Carolina State University. In that capacity he worked with faculty and university officials across colleges and departments to enhance the quality of academic experience for all the institution's undergraduate students. His responsibilities included increasing the quality of academic advising afforded all students; the interpretation, review and revision of academic policy for the University; and, support for efforts by academic programs to develop balanced assessment-based environments for critical decision making. This includes decision making related to learning outcomes for the University's general education requirements as well as the undergraduate academic program review process. In addition, Dr. Conway, a veteran administrator of student success programs, was charged with developing an institutional framework for NC State's student success efforts.

In addition, during his 32 year tenure at NC State University Dr. Conway served in various capacities, which included, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Services (2002-2005); and, Associate Vice Provost for the Division of Undergraduate Affairs (1998-2002) as well as Director of NC State's First Year College (1998-2000); Before assuming senior administrative responsibilities, Dr. Conway served NC State University in several capacities including counselor in the University Counseling Center, Trio Program Director, Director of the Academic Support Program for Student Athletes, and Director of Recruiting and Minority Services for the College of Engineering.

Dr. Conway has accumulated significant practical experience in facilitating access to a university education for persons from diverse cultural backgrounds. He has shared those experiences with groups that include academic professionals, human rights organizations, government agencies, and business leaders. He has developed and taught workshops for students and professionals seeking to enhance their knowledge and skills in the development of human capital. He earned his B.S. degree in Agricultural Education and M.S. degree in Guidance and Counseling from North Carolina **A & T** State University, and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Conway's wife of 27 years is the former Mychele Jenkins of Hollywood, Florida. They have two children Simon, 25 (Currently a teacher in Warren County, NC) and Zena, 22 (Currently a graduate student at Howard University, DC). He knows the challenges today's students and their families face getting into and completing their college careers.