



**Candidate Bio - Jonathan Lacewell:**

Jonathan Lacewell, a native of Bolton, North Carolina is the President of the NCCU Metro DC Alumni Association Chapter. Professionally Jonathan is the Founder and CEO of a multi-state mental and behavioral health company. His work focuses on supporting individuals in building stable and enriching lives through personalized care and daily living strategies. Jonathan graduated from NCCU in 2002 with a BS in Criminal Justice. He is a second-generation NCCU graduate (Joe Lacewell '77) and is part of a strong family legacy of NCCU graduates, including his sister, cousins, and neighborhood friends, who are making an impact in their communities and professions. As Chapter President, Jonathan has led the Metro DC Chapter through a period of renewal following the COVID epidemic, providing redirection, updating processes and strengthening operations. Under his leadership, the chapter has lead exceptional alumni with focused initiatives that included membership growth, community service, fundraising, and improving the chapter's social engagement experience. Jonathan finds joy in helping leaders identify their vision for a project and helping them find ways to make thoughts transition into a reality. Outside of his profession and alumni leadership roles, Jonathan spends his time being a proud father to his twin sons, Elias and Gabriel, exercising, reading, and spending time with like-minded friends where the conversations always entail about being a better version of the man he currently is today, challenging each other to dream bigger dreams and accomplish bigger goals. He lives by a quote from the book *The Alchemist*: "...when we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too".

**Personal Statement:**

The NCCU Alumni Association should represent the next step in both the professional and social growth for every Eagle. It should be more than a connection point. It must serve as a seamless transition, a warm handoff that supports graduates as they step into life beyond the university. For early career professionals, the Association should provide a strong and supportive community that fosters connection, creates opportunity, and encourages continued growth. For our seasoned and legacy alumni, it should serve as a space to reflect, engage, and pour into the next generation, offering guidance that helps others not just navigate life, but truly thrive. I envision an Alumni Association that pushes the boundaries of what it means to be a graduate of NCCU. Together, we can build a structured and sustainable community that is self-governed, self-funded, and committed to excellence. Our goal should be to achieve global recognition not just for who we are, but for the measurable impact we make in the lives of our members and within the communities we serve. This is our opportunity to redefine the power of the NCCU network and to expand the legacy of the #TheMaroonPrint for generations to come.

**1. *What motivates you to serve on the alumni executive committee at this time?***

I am motivated to serve on the Alumni Executive Committee at this time because I strongly believe in leaving every position and organization better than I found it. That principle has guided my leadership journey and continues to shape my commitment to service. During my tenure as President of the Metro DC Chapter, I recognized opportunities where stronger institutional direction and strategic alignment could have allowed us to maximize our impact. Additionally, during my time serving as Vice President of Operations for the National Alumni Association, I had the opportunity to engage with chapters across the country, gaining valuable insight into both the challenges and opportunities they face. These experiences provided me with a broader understanding of the organization's needs at a national level. I am motivated by the belief that many of these challenges can be addressed through intentional strategies, informed by both professional experience and research in organizational and business improvement. I see an opportunity to help strengthen the foundation of the Alumni Association by enhancing structure, consistency, and overall effectiveness. It is important to me that the organization is positioned for success in every initiative it undertakes. I am committed to helping shape an Alumni Association that is not only impactful, but also distinctive, forward-thinking, and aligned in its purpose ensuring that it continues to grow and evolve in meaningful ways.

**2. *What do you see as the biggest opportunity for our alumni community over the next 2–3 years?***

Over the next 2–3 years, I believe the greatest opportunity for our alumni community lies in our ability to come together in alignment around a shared vision and collective mission. When we operate on one accord with a clear understanding that our primary focus is the success and advancement of our

members, we position ourselves to create meaningful and lasting impact. This includes strengthening connections across chapters, enhancing engagement at all levels, and ensuring that every member sees value in being part of the Alumni Association. By prioritizing collaboration, communication, and a unified purpose, we can build a more cohesive and supportive network one that not only uplifts individual members but also amplifies our collective influence. This is our opportunity to be intentional about who we are as an organization, to invest in our people, and to create a culture centered on growth, support, and shared success.

3. ***What specific impact would you like to have if elected?***

If elected, I will focus on bringing structure, alignment, and measurable impact to the NCCU Alumni Association. This starts with clearly defining our priorities and aligning all activities to a focused annual plan with specific goals, timelines, and ownership. I will work to strengthen our operations by establishing consistent processes for membership engagement, communications, and programming, so that our work is organized, repeatable, and sustainable year over year. This includes setting clear expectations, tracking progress, and regularly reporting on outcomes so members understand both where we are and where we are going. A key priority will be increasing alumni engagement and investment by creating meaningful opportunities for involvement at every level whether through professional development, service, mentorship, or giving. I will also prioritize building a stronger membership strategy that supports scholarships and ensures the long-term presence of the Association. Equally important, I will focus on leadership development and succession planning so that we are continuously building the next generation of alumni leaders and ensuring continuity in our work. My goal is to build an Alumni Association that is not only active, but an effective one that operates with intention, delivers results, and creates lasting value for our members, our students, the University, and the broader NCCU community.