



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Barber encourages students to make history now**

Raleigh, NC – The Rev. Dr. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, capped a week of on-campus activities honoring Saint Augustine's College's founders with a stirring message to students, encouraging them to learn from the school's history and make history themselves.

Saint Augustine's College was founded in 1867, two years after the end of the Civil War. The founders knew education would be important for former slaves and their decision to open a school for them was a courageous step of faith.

"No matter where we are, there must always be some people who are willing to cut against the grain," Barber said. "We still need that kind of spirit today."

Barber highlighted some of the challenges he sees facing the black community today, which he said includes the criminalization of black males, the lack of quality education for black children and the increase of predatory lenders preying on college students. In light of these concerns, Barber encouraged students to join the HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) march Feb. 9.

Barber told students that by participating in the march, they would be making a statement that they are unsatisfied with current conditions.

"You must turn the rhythm, rap and rhyme of your time into a new voice," Barber said. "It's your time to stand up, speak up, vote up. ... Freedom's journey needs you to be astute and be an agent of change."

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