



For Immediate Release

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Cherie Berry, June Atkinson inspire women to reach for success

Saint Augustine's College hosted its annual June Kay Campbell Women in Leadership Symposium on Friday, March 28.

The event included workshops, panel discussions and speeches from North Carolina Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry and North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson. Berry and Atkinson discussed the women who inspired their success and how women's roles are changing.

The influx of technology and increased globalization are changing the workforce and allowing the flexibility women need to take care of business at home and in the workplace, Berry said.

"Women are really poised for success in our world of change because women are smarter," Berry said. "We complete high school more than men, and we are more likely to graduate from college than men."

Even on the political scene, women are enjoying a greater level of success than ever before.

"For the first time in our history – in our nation and in our state – we could have women on the ballot for president and governor," Berry said.

Atkinson talked about the many women throughout her life who helped her reach her goals. From her grandmother, born in 1900, who was the first woman in her family to graduate from high school, to the fourth-grade teacher who inspired her to dream about what she could be when she grew up, it was the women in Atkinson's life who pushed her to greatness.

Both women mentioned the example of June Kay Campbell, for whom the conference is named. June Campbell and her husband, Ralph Campbell Sr., were leaders in the local civil rights movement and were instrumental in the integration of the Raleigh Public School System. Campbell worked at Saint Augustine's College for 31 years before she retired in 1992.

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