

# J.C. Smith president to step down

Yancy from 1A

June 30. Its goal was \$75 million, and it has raised \$80.7 million.

The university also renovated its oldest building, Biddle Hall, and opened a 23,000-square-foot technology building. JCSU also says that in 2000, it was the first historically black college or university to issue laptops to all of its students.

And the university's endowment has grown from \$13.8 million to \$53 million.

"She's probably one of the more effective fundraisers I've ever encountered," said Patty Norman, former chairwoman of the university's board of visitors. "Aside from her incredible passion for the school, she's willing to go after and ask anyone for help. ... A lot of people are good at fundraising but don't really enjoy it. You could tell she really enjoyed it."

Yancy's persistence has ensured JCSU has "been able to stay in the running with some of the other schools in terms of finding those dollars," said local clothier Cary Mitchell, a 1983 alumnus and former trustee.

"The endowment is healthy, the school operates in the black and her record speaks for itself when it comes to fundraising."

Yancy, a former Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association board president, boosted annual scholarships from \$125,000 to \$1.9 million for the conference's 11 schools, CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said. He "was hoping she'd change her mind" about leaving.

"We lose a president with experience. ... You never want your team players to go."

She was passionate about

## Yancy's Highlights

Johnson C. Smith University President Dorothy Cowser Yancy said Friday that she had accomplished the goals she set in her inaugural address in 1995.

- **Increase endowment.**  
The endowment has grown nearly \$40 million to \$53 million.
- **Open a science and technology building and be fully connected to "the information highway."**  
The Technology Center was completed during the 1997-98 school year, and JCSU says it became the first historically black college or university to issue laptops to each student in 2000.
- **Complete a \$50 million capital campaign in the 1990s; immediately begin a new one.**  
"A Vision Shared" campaign concluded in 1997-98, raising \$63.8 million in five years. JCSU launched the \$75 million "Pathways to Success" campaign during the 2000-01 academic year. It ends June 30 and has raised more than \$80 million so far.
- **Renovate several campus buildings.**  
The university renovated historic Biddle Hall and completed \$7 million renovation of James B. Duke Memorial Library. The Cannon Foundation awarded \$50,000 to repair Berry Hall dormitory.

bringing the CIAA basketball tournament to Charlotte, said Michael Smith, president of Charlotte Center City Partners. The JCSU president automatically serves on the uptown business group's board.

The tournament, in Raleigh for six years, moved to Charlotte in 2006 and will be played here at least through 2008.

"It's such a good fit for Charlotte. It's had tremendous impact, both culturally and economically," Smith said.

Organizers put the tournament's economic impact at \$15.4 million for 2006, and \$27.7 million in 2007.

CIAA students' success is a priority for Yancy, Kerry said.

She required JCSU students to study resume-writing and interviewing before they graduated, said Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College. The two served together

on the Center City Partners board and other groups.

The rate of JCSU graduates getting jobs or getting into graduate school increased from 27.6 percent in 1992-93 to 85 percent in 2005-06, the university says.

"Anyone who knows her, has met her, finds her to be a very engaging and driven leader," Zeiss said. "As historians look back on the history of that school, she certainly will be rated as one of (the) more important leaders in that school's history."

Records show Yancy's salary was \$215,326 in 2004, the most recent year available.

Yancy said she plans to continue working and fundraising through the next year.

But she said she will follow the advice of Bennett College President Johnetta Cole: "Leave on a high note, Dorothy."

— STAFF WRITERS APRIL BETHEA AND GREG LACOUR CONTRIBUTED.



YALONDA M. JAMES - STAFF PHOTO

Dorothy Cowser Yancy announced Friday that she will be stepping down as president of Johnson C. Smith University by June 30, 2008. She says she won't retire but that it's time for a new vision at the school.

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