

Adams Delivers Floor Speech Honoring Retiring JCSU President



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Hello Sarah,

Adams Delivers Floor Speech Honoring Retiring JCSU President

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 12, 2023) – Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12) delivered a floor speech honoring outgoing Johnson C. Smith University president Clarence Armbrister. [He announced his retirement earlier this year.](#)

Adams delivered the remarks on Thursday, May 11.

[Video of the speech is available for download here.](#)

Remarks as prepared for delivery:

I rise this morning to honor the president of Johnson C. Smith University, Clay Armbrister.

JCSU is Charlotte's own HBCU, and the only accredited Historically Black College or University in the 12th Congressional District. The Golden Bulls have a rich legacy in the Biddleville neighborhood in Charlotte that extends all the way back to 1867.

President Armbrister has helped preserve and extend that legacy during his tenure. I've been proud to work with President Armbrister to grow Johnson C. Smith. For five years, President Armbrister has been a transformative leader, not only for JCSU but for the West End and the entire Charlotte Community.

Under Clay's leadership, JCSU has modernized its campus, overcome a pandemic, and led a historic fundraising drive to raise \$80 million to support the university's academic and career-ready programs. He courageously excused student loan debt for hundreds of students.

Last year, I said President Armbrister is one of the true heroes behind America's progress during the pandemic, and he has continued to earn that compliment with his leadership in our community. I am proud to call him a friend, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. represents North Carolina's 12th Congressional District (Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Cabarrus County) and serves on the House Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Education & the Workforce, where she serves as ranking member of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. She is the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus.

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