

SPIRITUALITY AS A COMPONENT OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
AMONG SELECTED NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

A Dissertation  
by  
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## ABSTRACT

### SPIRITUALITY AS A COMPONENT OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AMONG SELECTED NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS (December 2012)

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In a 2006 executive summary, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) reports America's community colleges will experience an 84% turnover in chief executives within ten years. Well-prepared individuals will be needed to fill vacant positions, which proffers the question: just what is a well-prepared leader?

This study examined the relationship between spirituality and transformational leadership among North Carolina community college presidents. The qualitative study was set within an interpretive approach, as the researcher was the primary instrument for data gathering and evaluation. Eight North Carolina community college presidents were purposefully selected, observed, and interviewed with the intent of investigating the relationship their spirituality has to their leadership style, what activities have guided the development of their spirituality and leadership, and how they mentor followers.

The data collected suggest that these study presidents rely heavily on their spirituality to support and guide the leadership process. Evident from the observations and

interviews was the strong influence of mentoring in the leadership development of the presidents and a concerted effort on their part to employ transformational leadership traits in mentoring followers. Additionally, linkages could be found between the study participants' leadership traits and the AACCC suggested competencies for community college presidents. These items were analyzed in the context of transformational leadership theory and practice; implications about the findings and suggestions for further research are also presented.

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