

# Atwater gets provost post

## N. Ky. University official becomes first black in No. 2 spot



BY MIKE SANTILLO  
*Jambar Editor*

Dr. Tony Atwater was officially introduced as the new provost and vice president for academic affairs yesterday during a press conference at Tod Hall. Atwater will become the first African American to hold the No. 2 position at YSU; Atwater will begin provost duties Aug. 1.

The provost is the chief academic officer of the university and is second in command to the president.

Atwater is dean of the College of Professional Studies and Education at Northern Kentucky University. Before his term at

Northern Kentucky, Atwater served as associate vice president of academic affairs at the University of Toledo.

Dr. David Sweet, president, said, "I'm confident in his ability to perform as provost. He has a strong sense of integrity, and I am looking forward to Aug. 1."

Atwater focused mainly on YSU being a metropolitan university and how great an asset that is.

Atwater said, "YSU can be a supreme example of a metropolitan university. A metropolitan university takes teaching to communities beyond boundaries. They touch the heart of people in enriching ways; it's a very powerful concept."

Atwater talked about the steel

mill closings; he said he looks at that as a golden opportunity for YSU to come to the rescue.

"YSU must play the leadership role to revitalize the Youngstown and Warren areas. There is a real opportunity to break some new ground and be viewed in a positive light," said Atwater.

Atwater already has some goals in mind.

"I want to strengthen the planning process to support the president's agenda. I plan to respond promptly to the needs and aspirations of the community. I'm a realist; I understand there is a flat budget situation, but I don't see that as a negative but a challenge,"

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— DR. TONY ATWATER  
*University Provost*

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**TONY ATWATER**

said Atwater. Atwater said he was very excited about his new position. "I look forward to becoming a part of the Youngstown community. I'm very humbled and honored to serve as the new provost for YSU. YSU has a strong and posi-

tive opportunity to grow and to be exceptional."

Atwater's previous positions have included service as special assistant to the provost at the University of Connecticut, chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Rutgers University, and assistant director of the Honors College at Michigan State University. He has ten years experience in the field of broadcast journalism and six years as a professional television journalist.

Atwater's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts in mass media from Hampton University, master level studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a doctoral degree in mass media research from Michigan State University.

Atwater currently has a book titled "The Living Room Crisis," currently in press at Sage Publications.