



## RISING STARS SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Terrence Thomas, Professor  
North Carolina A&T State University**

**By: Treméne Triplett, MA, BBA  
Institute for Successful Leadership, Inc.**

### EXCERPT

Dr. Terrence Thomas, 70, arrived at North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) in 1998 after a storied career in agriculture spanning more than four decades in his homeland of Jamaica. A native of Lluidas Vale, a settlement located 45 miles outside of the capital city, Kingston, Thomas combined an early fascination with agriculture, with education and experience, as his community grew and cultivated nearly everything they ate, to endeavor his rich career. Following a degree earned in Agriculture from the University of West Indies Trinidad campus in 1974, Thomas took on a series of professional challenges. Beginning at the Jamaica School of Agriculture, to academic appointments ranging from vocational school vice principal in rural Western Jamaica to acting dean, and ultimately to president at the College of Agricultural Science & Education in Eastern Jamaica, Thomas was quite accomplished. His professional pursuits and affiliations encouraged and led him to earn higher education in the United States, a Master of Science in Continuing and Vocational Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1981 and a Doctor of Philosophy in Vocational Education, Louisiana State University Eunice campus, 1989. Also an entrepreneur and engaged in the community, Thomas operated a prosperous 10-acre dairy farm early in his career, and grew Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee in the latter prior to leaving the country. Thomas's final governmental lead connected him to become Executive Director of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, an Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI), a program for the US to further invest and to relieve debt for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this capacity, Thomas developed environmental conservation projects; funded and spurred community development, along with child development projects. It was during this period, 1993-1997, that North Carolina A&T had a project in Jamaica that needed funding. Through the foundation, Thomas was able assist the project; thereby, assisting Jamaican residents. Colleagues from that project later contacted Thomas about an available position at the NC A&T. Thomas took the position in 1998, connecting him to his wife of 20 years, who was already residing in the US.

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