



Jaileea Knight, Freshman Agricultural Education student



Jaileea Knight's current Miss Sophomore campaign

The Life of an *Aggie*

A STORY OF LEADERSHIP AND GROWTH

From the moment Jaileea Knight stepped onto the vibrant campus of North Carolina A&T, she knew she wanted to make a difference. The energy of the university, rich in tradition and community, fueled her passion for service. Running for and winning the title of Miss South Campus was more than just a personal achievement—it was the beginning of a mission. “From the start, I knew I wanted to make a positive impact on the community,” she shared. “Running for and winning Miss South Campus sparked my passion for creating opportunities for others to connect with fellow Aggies.” It gave her the opportunity to foster a sense of belonging among students, to bridge connections, and to create platforms for voices that often went unheard. It was through this role that she developed leadership skills, engaged in meaningful community service, and realized the true impact she could have.

Being a part of NC A&T's Royal Court meant more than wearing a sash and representing the student body at events. It was about action. Through her platform, she dedicated herself to ensuring that students—especially those in residence halls—had opportunities to engage, grow, and lead. One of the most rewarding aspects of her journey was introducing students to organizations like the Residence Hall Association (RHA). “Although RHA is a Big 5 organization, it doesn't always receive the same attention as the Student Government Association,” she explained. “We provide a platform for residents to voice their opinions through town hall meetings with university officials, organize community service initiatives that support various aspects of our community, and host campus-wide events that engage the student body.” She worked tirelessly to change that.

Under her leadership, students found their voices in town hall meetings, community service initiatives flourished, and campus-wide events gained traction. She felt immense pride knowing that her advocacy helped the Class of 2028 feel more connected. “Connecting with fellow freshmen, learning from them, and advocating on their behalf has been incredibly fulfilling,” Jaileea said. Watching students step into leadership roles and realizing the power of their collective influence was the greatest reward. She didn't just stand as a representative of the residence halls—she stood alongside them, championing their interests and ensuring their needs were heard.

But the journey wasn't without its challenges. Coming into college on a scholarship, Jaileea initially thought she had it all figured out. She had mapped out a plan, confident in her ability to juggle academics, leadership, and personal growth. Yet, as reality set in, she realized this journey had

started long before she stepped onto campus. The transition from freshman to leader wasn't seamless. “It wasn't easy. Navigating the campus, adjusting to my new role, and discovering my new self was challenging in the beginning,” she admitted. Adjusting to the responsibilities of Miss South Campus, learning how to manage time effectively, and discovering new dimensions of herself proved to be an intense but rewarding process.

Late nights became routine—studying into the early hours, knowing she had meetings the next morning. There were moments when she had to sacrifice personal time to fulfill her commitments. But each challenge strengthened her, teaching her resilience and the value of prioritization. “It's all about how you manage your mental well-being and what you let slide,” she reflected. The demands of her role forced her to refine her organizational skills, understand the importance of mental well-being, and recognize when to step back and breathe.

Her daily life was a whirlwind of responsibilities. Mornings were dedicated to classes, afternoons filled with meetings, and evenings spent organizing events or engaging in community service. Between the chaos, she found time to eat, review her schedule, and occasionally steal a moment for herself. Despite the fast pace, she embraced every aspect of it because she knew that every event planned, every meeting attended, and every connection made was shaping not only her own growth but the growth of those around her.

At the heart of it all, Jaileea remained grounded by one simple truth: being an Aggie was about more than just attending a university—it was about embracing a legacy. “This position has taught me so much in just a few months, and I know the lessons I've learned will stay with me for the rest of my life,” she said. A legacy of excellence, leadership, and service. And as she continued her journey, she knew that every lesson learned and every challenge overcome would prepare her for the next chapter. Because the life of an Aggie was not just about where she was—it was about where she was going.

STORY BY TA'NAJA MOSS

