

**Subject:** Lt. Governor of Virginia  
**From:** Paul Tribble <ptrible@cnu.edu>  
**Date:** Fri, 25 Jul 2003 10:17:53 -0400  
**To:** everyone@cnu.edu

In the past three months, I have met with more than 100 business, community and political leaders around the state and members of the CNU community - faculty, staff and board members - about the possibility of running for Lt. Governor of Virginia. I have thoroughly enjoyed these discussions and the opportunity to reengage with many old friends and colleagues and am very grateful, humbled - and somewhat surprised - by the strong support and encouragement that I received.

I have learned important lessons about state government and public education while serving as President of CNU over the past 7 years. I am deeply concerned that too many of our public elementary and secondary schools are failing and the excellence of our public colleges and universities is at risk. We need public officials who have the courage to lead and call the people of Virginia to action. I hoped to have that opportunity.

After much reflection, however, I have concluded that I cannot run for statewide office and, at the same time, fulfill my first and most important responsibilities as President of Christopher Newport. I have been given the remarkable opportunity to lead CNU in a period of dramatic transformation and success and I must stay - and want to stay - to complete this task.

We are building a great university for Virginia and America and I look forward to working with you in the days ahead.