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Dalton Stresses Leadership, Experience in Lt. Governor Debate

Asheville, NC -- Senator Walter Dalton, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, stressed his proven leadership in helping to move North Carolina forward during a candidates' debate Saturday sponsored by the North Carolina Federation of College Democrats. Despite repeated attacks by one opponent to poke holes in Dalton's record, he and others stuck to the issues of the day and talked about their visions for North Carolina's future.

"It's unfortunate that Hampton used his time today to distort the truth – my hope is that at the next debate Hampton will join Dan, Pat and myself and talk about issues people care about. Trying to tear others down because you lack a record of your own is the opposite of leadership," said Dalton. "I am the one candidate in this race who has delivered on promises, and I will continue to do so as your Lieutenant Governor."

Dalton outlined how as Senate Education Chair and Appropriations Co-Chair, he has worked with Governor Easley and other leaders to make the right choices for North Carolina, identifying problems and creating solutions. They invested mightily in education, kept taxes in check, and created jobs through a budget shortfall and a recession.

Dalton emphasized how he worked to reduce class sizes, bring accountability back to our classrooms, and increase teacher pay. He also highlighted his leadership in creating the groundbreaking Learn and Earn Early College Program, which is making college possible for thousands of students, preparing them for the new knowledge-based economy we now live in.

As a Senator, Dalton has led the fight to help senior citizens gain access to more affordable prescription drugs, to expand health coverage for uninsured children, and to assist rural health clinics in getting patients the care they need. He helped to establish a permanent funding source that will make North Carolina a nationwide leader in cancer research.

"The job's not done yet, but for the last ten years, I have worked hard to make North Carolina a better place to live, work and to raise our families," Dalton said. "As your Lieutenant Governor, I promise you that I will work as hard as each of you does every day – to make this state an even better place to live. I know that, working together, we can continue moving North Carolina forward."

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