January 25, 2016

Good Morning Coppin Family:

As I am writing this paragraph it is snowing – a lot. Those of us who are weathering the snow storm in our warm homes are very fortunate. This, however, may not be the case for all Marylanders. A few years ago Coppin agreed to partner with the Maryland State Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to provide emergency shelter for residents whose homes lose power during a storm. MEMA stocked the auxiliary gyms in the Physical Educational Complex (PEC) with food, water, and other basic necessities to accommodate Marylanders who needed shelter during the snow storm.

A few highlights, updates, and good news are listed below.

***This past December 59 students received their degrees from Coppin State University. I would like to offer my congratulations to all awardees for a job well done!!! Your hard work and dedication will build the framework for a successful future. We are COPPIN Proud of your accomplishment.

***The National Urban League will be holding its Annual Conference in Baltimore this summer. As part of the conference over 500 young men and women will gather at Coppin for a week long National Urban League Youth Leadership Summit from June 7th to June 18th. Congratulations to everyone involved in attracting the Youth Leadership Summit to our campus.

***Coppin State University has been selected to participate in the Innovation Village, a plan to revitalize West Baltimore by bringing new businesses, start-ups and business incubators to the community. Coppin and the Maryland Institute College of Art are the two educational anchors for the project. Over the next several months we will learn more about our involvement and how it can help our students and the community.

***Last Wednesday, I convened a meeting of cabinet members, deans, and leaders of the four shared governance groups. Meeting topics included upcoming changes in organizational structure. The enrollment management function will transition to Student Affairs to create the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (EMSA). This change, which elevates and emphasizes the importance of enrollment, will take place after we successfully recruit a VP for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. The VP for EMSA will provide leadership in the planning and implementation of recruitment,
retention, and enrollment activities and other non-academic student success-related functions. This change will enable the successful Provost and VP for Academic Affairs candidate to focus attention on the following: 1) working with faculty to conduct an ongoing study of the effect of our curriculum on recruitment, retention, graduation, time-to-degree and post-graduation success, and 2) building a robust, mission-appropriate research enterprise.

Additionally, the Department of Recreation and Wellness will report to the Department of Athletics. This move is an appropriate logistical fit, and it will offer a higher level of professional expertise and oversight to the department.

***The Coppin family once again surpassed the goal set for the Maryland Charities Campaign by raising $8,793 with seven leadership donors. Thanks to all who made this year’s campaign a success. Maryland Charities supports worthy causes throughout Baltimore, including CSU. Well done!!!

With Coppin Pride,

Maria Thompson, Ph.D.
President