



MONDAY MORNING MENTIONS

April 18, 2016

Good Morning Coppin Family:

In the coming weeks, I will use the opening paragraphs of Monday Morning Mention to share my thoughts regarding the future direction and aspirations for our campus. It is fitting, given our status as an anchor institution, that the first aspiration I write about is obtaining the Carnegie Foundation's (CF) Elective Classification for Community Engagement. The CF's detailed definition of community engagement reads as follows:

Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Carnegie Foundation will request applications for the next round of awards in May 2018 and proposals will be due in April 2019. Awards will be announced in January 2020. We are fortunate that some of the data required for the application aligns with the data we are already collecting for our reaffirmation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Downing will discuss the first steps in planning Coppin's Community Engagement application at an upcoming meeting.

Only 361 of the 4726 colleges and universities in the U.S. have distinguished themselves by obtaining this Carnegie classification. Three schools in Maryland are among the 361 recognized campuses: Anne Arundel Community College, Loyola University and Towson University. We should aspire to be among them. More information on the Community Engagement Classification can be found at http://nerche.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=341&Itemid=92 .

Highlights, updates and good news are listed below:



Coppin State University participated in the Maryland Clean Energy Program over the past two years which resulted in energy savings of \$1,501,038. Energy Systems Group began the installation of energy saving upgrades in buildings on the CSU campus over two years ago. So, when you have to move your arm to get the lights back on in your office, remember, your patience and cooperation are saving the university tens of thousands of dollars that can be directed to scholarships and programs that support our students. Well done, CSU community!!!!



Nothing is final yet, but plans are being formulated to implement a new recycling policy in the coming months that will help CSU become environmentally friendly and add to our “Green Campus.” In addition, a new “Gardens Program” is in the developmental stage at CSU. You may have noticed vegetable boxes being installed on the north campus behind

the new Science and Technology Center. More information will be forthcoming about these two new exciting programs at CSU.



Maryland State Comptroller, Peter Franchot, was on campus last Wednesday to meet with and thank the students in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program at CSU. This program provides free tax preparation assistance for families with incomes less than \$54,000 per year, the disabled and those with limited English speaking skills. CSU Professor of Accounting, Hyacinth Ezeka, directs the VITA program and employs CSU accounting students as advisors. Well done, Prof. Ezeka!!! We are proud of you and your students.

The Maryland State Legislative Session has ended. I want to thank all those who helped present Coppin in the best light to our state legislators. I enjoyed providing testimony at both the Senate and House Budget Committees. We were pleased to welcome legislators to campus during this past fall. We were able to bring them up to date on the great things happening at Coppin and to see the new Science and Technology Center. Dr. Danielle Prendergast provided the leadership for our government relations efforts this year and did an outstanding job representing CSU. In the coming weeks expect to hear more about what the legislature passed and what, if any, impact the legislation will have on CSU.



Congratulations to Dr. Hany Sobhi, Associate Professor of Natural Sciences, who was recognized for “*Excellence in Research*” at the Board of Regents Faculty Awards Ceremony last Friday. Dr. Sobhi, who has a growing list of research publications in top scientific journals, was one of four USM faculty members recognized for research. I look forward to the next academic year where I anticipate Coppin faculty will compete and be recognized for excellence in the other categories: Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Public Service, Excellence in Mentoring and Excellence in Innovation. I want Coppin to dominate future Faculty Awards Ceremonies.

With Coppin Pride,

Maria Thompson, Ph.D.
President