

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 1, 2019

Dear friends and colleagues,

As you know, President Maria Thompson recently announced plans to step down, effective June 30, 2019. As I said at the time of her announcement, Dr. Thompson's career has been one of strong commitment to the mission of higher education and historically black colleges and universities, with a focus on the students and communities they serve.

Like you, I have been deeply gratified to see her return to full health after a very challenging period. I want to applaud her leadership, thank her for her service over the past few years, and wish her well as she opens a new chapter in her life.

These are exciting times at Coppin State University. In recent years, the university launched its Cyber Warrior program in partnership with Northrop Grumman and Baltimore tech firm Digit All City. Coppin's Center for Nanotechnology was recognized as a Nanotechnology Professional Development Partnership Project, which is hosted by Penn State's Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. And Coppin State formed a new partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University -- ASPIRE (Academic Success via Postdoctoral Independence in Research and Education) -- to cultivate a diverse group of highly-trained biomedical researchers.

Coppin is critical to the future of Baltimore. Through its "Finish 4 Free @ Coppin" program, and through its contribution (along with the University of Baltimore) to USM's B-Power program, the university is opening new pathways for Baltimore City high school students. Going forward, work being done by educators and scholars at Coppin—and by the 50,000 students and 15,000 faculty and staff at USM's five campuses in the Baltimore region—will be instrumental in developing solutions to the city's many challenges.

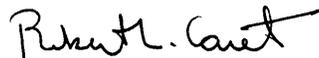
The University System of Maryland Board of Regents soon will begin the process of selecting the next university president. The process will start with the selection of a search firm and appointment of a search and screening committee comprising representatives from the different internal and external constituencies of the university's community.

Both the board and I believe the feedback from the Coppin State University community will be critical in informing the search process. On behalf of the board, I will meet with various constituent groups to explain and answer questions about the search process. I will also engage in a discussion about the future of Coppin State University, thoughts on the type of leader envisioned for the university's next era, and suggestions for appointments to the search and screening committee.

To that end, on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 I will be meeting with a number of groups across campus to discuss the search process, thoughts on the key attributes and experiences sought in a new president, and their vision for Coppin. Following the campus visit, we will invite nominations for service on the search committee. Once the search committee has been appointed, a larger forum will be held on campus at which the broader Coppin State community will have the opportunity to discuss the process with the search committee. Additionally, we will provide an electronic form for the community to provide input.

Thank you for your commitment to and support for Coppin State University. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Caret
Chancellor