



from the desk of

President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

January 11, 2021

Dear Eagle Nation:

Capitol Riot: It's Time to Resolve the Divide of our Nation

Not unlike the past year of COVID-19 and racial injustice, the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, January 6, was an unprecedented and unfortunate occurrence of monumental proportions. It was a shocking, violent and frightening event that will be remembered as one of the worst days for American Democracy in our lifetimes. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the security and police personnel injured and who lost their lives in the aftermath.

Make no mistake, the violent actions of that day were a clear and deliberate invasion; an assault and attempt to undermine the foundation of our democracy and our faith in free elections of our government leaders by promoting falsehoods and mistrust. By all rational accounts the presidential election was free and fair, supported by the courts on every level, throughout the nation. President-Elect Biden won in a clear and convincing fashion.

It's time to resolve the issues that have divided our nation, not just over the past four years, but throughout America's history. I look forward to all of us coming together to build this country back better, regardless of political party or race, as one people — Americans. I encourage all of you to join me for that cause.

University Highlights

Coppin State University students, faculty, and staff continue to make differences in an array of areas, and I am pleased to share some campus highlights and things to look forward to:

Legislative Bill to Support Maryland HBCUs

This week marks the start of the 2021 Maryland legislative session, which begins on Wednesday January 13. It's likely that House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1 will be reintroduced by House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones (D-Baltimore County) and Sen. Charles E. Sydnor III (D-Baltimore County) respectively, to fund Maryland's HBCUs at the same amount of \$577 million as the House Bill introduced last year.

Last May, Gov. Larry J. Hogan (R) vetoed the previous house bill, which unanimously passed the Senate and passed the House of Delegates by a 129-2 vote. At that time, Hogan stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had made it "impossible" to adopt legislation that had significant fiscal impacts.

I am working to ensure that Coppin State University is given every adequate consideration so that we are equitably restored. I have already had several direct conversations with multiple delegates and senators, and I am poised to submit written and oral testimony to various committees within the legislature, during this session.

For reference, several years ago, a coalition of alumni from Maryland's four HBCUs — Bowie State, Coppin State and Morgan State universities, as well as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, asserted that the state has long funded new programs at PWIs at the expense of their HBCU alma maters. A federal judge ruled in the coalition's favor in 2013, stating the state of Maryland has been promoting duplicative programs at its PWIs and therefore have hurt enrollment at its HBCUs. For years since that time, the state and the coalition have struggled to reach a resolution, despite several rounds of court-ordered mediation.

CSU Faculty Member Named President of Baltimore County NAACP

I am pleased to share news that Dr. Danita Tolson, chair of CSU bachelor's of nursing degree program, has been named president of the Baltimore County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Dr. Tolson was nominated by Anthony Fugett, the long-time previous chapter president and was sworn in on Jan. 6.



Dr. Danita Tolson, assistant professor and chair of bachelor's of nursing degree (BSN) program. (Baltimore Sun photo)

Dr. Tolson's appointment comes at a pivotal time as racial inequalities, Black Lives Matter, social justice and structural racism protests and discussions in Baltimore, and nationwide, had brought global attention to inequalities, throughout 2020. Dr. Tolson also serves as Maryland State NAACP health committee chair since 2019.

Congratulations Dr. Tolson! Her work beyond the borders of academe, represents the true spirit of the Coppin cornerstone of civic and social responsibility and community enhancement.

Free COVID-19 Vaccinations to be Given by CSU Student Nurses

A program offering free vaccinations to the local community, given mostly by CSU nursing students, has been extended. CSU's Helene Fuld School of Nursing (HFSON) has been awarded a combined total of \$80,000 to continue supporting efforts associated



Seated is Dr. Jennifer Pope, CSU MSN faculty and Ms. Cotie Moss, Senior BSN student.

with the flu vaccine and begin to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccinations within Baltimore City. The program, a partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department, began in the fall with the administration of the flu vaccine.

The CSU HFSON faculty and students began the extended initiative on January 4th. The lead is Dr. Danita Tolson, BSN Chairperson, and the co-lead is Dr. Tracey L. Murray, CSU Dean of College of Health Professions. The first COVID-19 clinic was held on January 5th. The rate of COVID-19 illness and death is high in the Black community, which is even more reason for these communities to protect against the flu and SARS Co-V2, the virus that causes COVID-19. As a part of the program, vaccinations are given at the designated location from Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. Good work by the College of Health Professions faculty, staff and students.

Lastly, thank you for continuing your commitment to keeping our campus safe during these challenging times. Our latest COVID-19 updates can be found [here](#).

Take care, be well, and Go Eagles!



Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
Coppin
Coppin State University

president@coppin.edu

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

Coppin State University 2500 West North Avenue
Baltimore, MD | 21216 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.