October 12, 2020

Direct Eagle Nation:

When Coppin State University was founded in 1900 - 120 years ago - the right to vote had yet to be extended to all Americans. It would be another 22 years before women would be allowed to vote. Another 43 years would pass before African Americans, men or women, would be allowed to vote with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices. As we embark upon another national election season, I want to impress upon our students, faculty, staff, and community at large how important it is that we exercise our right, as a citizen of this country, to vote.

Election Day is November 3, 2020. All faculty and supervisors are encouraged to be flexible with students and staff so that they can reach their necessary stations and arrangements to cast their vote. Certainly, this is an election season that will not be easy. But we have seen it in our history, however, just as those freedom fighters, suffragists, and civil rights activists fought against violence, threats, and laws made to deter the realization of their right to vote, I am challenging all of you to honor their sacrifice by making your voices heard and casting your vote to do your part in defending democracy.

Maryland residents have until, tomorrow, October 13, to register to vote in the upcoming election. You can use this link to register. Information regarding polling locations, ballot drop boxes, and mail-in ballots can be found at https://www.elections.maryland.gov/.

This week, we held our Shared Governance meeting to discuss several matters regarding our University. Below, are a few campus updates and highlights:

As many of you may know, today kicks off our “I Love Coppin” week. Each year, we set aside this week to showcase our love, pride, and support of our beloved Coppin. Our Student Affairs team has planned a week of events to engage the Coppin Family, and I want to encourage your participation (per your level of comfort) whether that is virtual or in person.

Thursday, October 15, is Fanny Jackson Coppin Day on campus. This year’s FJC Day will include a special announcement.

Efforts are currently underway to establish the team that will lead the redesign of our University website. I want to thank Dr. Ahmed El-Haggan for his leadership on this project. The team will include representatives of all our community stakeholders to ensure that there is adequate input. Once the website team is assembled, they will work, over the coming months, to complete this important project by June 30, 2021.

I would like to thank our students, student affairs professionals and university police who accompanied me on the fall semester campus safety walk. For those who have never seen our campus at night, it is a beautiful site. I am pleased to note that, overwhelmingly, the students I engaged reported they feel safe on campus. However, we did note a few areas we are currently working to address. Over the coming months, we will replace old and add additional light fixtures, prune and relocate a few trees, and strengthen our blue light emergency communication system.

We are finalizing our plans for the spring semester. We will provide details to the campus community soon.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing commitment in keeping our campus safe during these extraordinary times. Our latest COVID-19 updates can be found here.

Take care, be well, and Go Eagles!

From the desk of

President Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

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