



August 14, 2019

RE: APPRECIATIONS | Faculty-Staff Institute & 2nd Alcorn All-Stars Recognition

Dear Alcorn Community:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance, work, and contributions made to plan and execute an exciting *Fall Faculty & Staff Institute 2019* and the second installment of the *Alcorn All-Star Academic Advising Recognition Luncheon*. Though expressions of gratitude were made throughout the Institute, a million thanks are in order for the multitude of efforts--large and small--which coalesced into a fabulous kick-off to the academic year.

Special thanks again to Dr. Nave for support of both programs and her invigorating inaugural state of the University message, which set the tone for our storied university. Jerrie Jackson was simply outstanding as mistress of ceremonies extraordinaire. Tony Gordon regaled us with resplendent musical renditions. Reverend Rhodes richly blessed us in prayer and invocation. Our facilities, buildings & grounds teams (c/o Mrs. Dupre', Dr. Posey and Mr. Shedrick) worked laboriously to welcome us to a renewed ever-beautiful campus. Alumni Affairs accommodated our guest speaker, Dr. Charles A. Taylor. Transportation Services and Mr. Julius Riddle are duly commended for exquisite customer service offered our guest speaker, Dr. Taylor. We extol the technological talents of the CITS team led by Dr. Willie Benson (Go Braves!) and inclusive of Desmond Stewart, Jerry Howard, Jr., Demetrius Lawrence, Stanley Stephney, Coney Dorsey, and Lance Nichols. Marketing & Communications staff were omnipresent snapping pictures, videos, modifying powerpoint slides, and posting the events on social media. The Student Affairs staff led by Mr. Cook prepared the ballroom, multi-purpose room, and accommodated our All-Star speaker, Kim Hooper. The presence of the campus police is always appreciated and allows everyone to enjoy events safely, securely, and with a smile.

In addition to appreciations for all our presenters and speakers, it was also a pleasure to "hear" from our students, namely the powerful operatic voice of vocalist Llettesha Sylvester, who did a tremendous job singing the national anthem. Our guest speaker, Dr. Taylor, gave a marvelous presentation as we continue the reaffirmation journey. "Reaffirmation is everyone's business" and Dr. Taylor's tips (aka "Taylor Tips") will go a long way towards advancing our efforts. Special thanks to our SACSCOC Vice President for his timely message.

The Academic Affairs staff ("The A-Team") were extraordinarily sedulous in their work. Ms. Benjamin managed to get us fried catfish for the All-Star luncheon; Ms. Keys brought her artistic gifts to bear. Ms. Buie handled logistical details and smooth campus arrival, accommodations, and departures for both speakers. Ms. Carr managed many memos, invoices, requisitions,

webpage announcements, communications, and much more to make the events a success. The entire team suggested the memorable gifts (umbrellas). Team, thank you for all you do.

Our gift sponsors included ASU Campus Store, ASU Foundation, Inc., C2C, Classic Creations|Jackson, MS, Department of Athletics, Mertha's Cakes of Louisville, KY, Parking Services, Office of the President, and the School of Agriculture & Applied Sciences. Such charitableness is well-received and regarded.

The audience--faculty/staff--was outstanding, receptive, participative, and active throughout the Institute and Advising All-Stars event. Ms. Kim Hooper's presence as a former advisee and now successful Walmart manager made the 2nd Annual All-Stars Appreciation event a hit. In addition, Dr. Nave's presence, along with that of unit deans and chairs and supporters, made the 2nd annual event special for the honorees. Deans, directors, and chairs thank you for all you do to promote student success! Dr. Valerie Thompson's presiding skills kept the event moving orderly so we could return to the second-half of the Institute. Sodexo is appreciated for its servicing of the Goldroom.

We sought to make the Faculty & Staff Institute a venue to honor and recognize the grand work done by our faculty and staff as we commenced the academic year. Indeed, we would appreciate your letting us know your thoughts about the Institute. **Please complete the Faculty & Staff Institute Evaluation** and give your feedback → [here](#).

Alcorn would not be the very special university it is without the contributions made by each and every one of our faculty and staff. Again, thank you! Have a great year!

Always Alcorn! Always the best.



John G. Igwebuike
Interim Provost & EVPAA