



Alcorn

State University

July 2, 2018

Dear Alcorn Community:

As I begin my service as interim president of Alcorn State University, I want to first give honor to God for his unwavering blessings on my life. I offer my personal thanks to the Mississippi IHL Board of Trustees and Commissioner for their support and confidence in appointing me to this important assignment. I also want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have so warmly responded to the announcement of my appointment with an outpouring of encouragement and support. I am humbly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with all of you to advance Alcorn, together.

It has been the joy of my life to have spent nearly all my career as a faculty member and administrator at Alcorn. I am passionate about the university's success and see tremendous opportunities for the future of this great institution. I look forward to working more closely with the Alcorn family of alumni, faculty, students, and staff to continuing to build on the solid foundation President Rankins laid. It is a distinct privilege to lead this wonderful, historic campus filled with remarkable people and surrounded by so much natural beauty.

This past year was one of tremendous achievement and progress for the Alcorn community. I'm proud of the Alcorn excellence demonstrated through hard work, innovative thinking and our collective commitment to growing and sustaining the academic resort.

Some of the areas we witnessed significant progress over the years — and where we'll push forward with great momentum in the year ahead — include: 1) fostering exemplary customer service; 2) ensuring exemplary teaching and research; 3) providing exemplary student advising and retention efforts; and 4) sustaining an exemplary workplace environment. These four, key focus areas will guide our operations going forward.

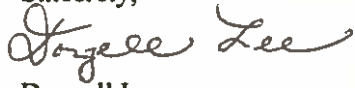
Alcorn has sustained its place across the landscape of learning because of our commitment to exemplify the best in higher education. We think differently and more importantly we do things differently. We ask students, faculty, and staff to continually focus on our pursuit to becoming the premiere HBCU land-grant. In the next few weeks and months I will be conducting briefings and meetings with as many of you as I can in the Alcorn community. I will keep you updated about my progress in this new role, as I work to lead Alcorn in our academic mission and promote the university to future students.

The recent transition in leadership is part of this process as we move forward into the next decade and position the university for its next 150 years. Finding the right President to move Alcorn into the future is a significant task and of utmost importance to the Board as they initiate the search.

This summer and into the next academic year, we will continue with our hands-on, day-to-day operations of exceptional teaching, learning and research, boundless athletic achievements and finding creative solutions in doing things the Alcorn Way.

I'm proud to be at the helm of this great institution, albeit on an interim basis, and welcome your feedback and assistance to help guide me. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donzell Lee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Donzell Lee
Interim President