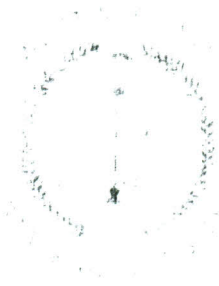




# WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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December 9, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Mott, Esq.  
Executive Secretary of the WV PLC  
WV Real Estate Division  
Chairman, WV Public Land Corporation  
1409 Greenbrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Executive Secretary Mott:

The purpose of this statement is to endorse the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's request to transfer Camp Washington-Carver to West Virginia State University (WVSU). It is my understanding that the Public Land Corporation (PLC) intends to facilitate this transfer.

In 1993, the West Virginia House of Delegates passed House Resolution 29 "Requiring that certain entities discuss the reestablishment of West Virginia State College's involvement in Camp Washington Carver." The Resolution further states that "...West Virginia State College, the Division of Culture and History and the Secretary of Education and the Arts area requested to...reestablish the involvement of West Virginia State College with Camp Washington-Carver."

An articulation agreement was signed on November 6, 2006 by representatives of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, the Division of Culture and History, and West Virginia State University regarding Camp Washington-Carver. The agreement resolved that representatives of the three entities "will cooperate and create a mutually acceptable and beneficial plan to reestablish the involvement of West Virginia State University with Camp Washington-Carver."

West Virginia State University was founded in 1891. Dr. John W. Davis, the fifth president of West Virginia State, led efforts to establish a 4-H Camp for African Americans in West Virginia during an era when segregation was the law of the land. The West Virginia Legislature approved that West Virginia State College would establish the Camp and would conduct extension activities. President Davis and others sought federal funding to be used in addition to the seed money allocated by the State to purchase land for the Camp. Dr. Davis helped to secure \$150,000 to buy a tract of land.

The Clifftop property was selected. Dr. Davis arranged for staff and students at West Virginia State to participate in different phases of the construction once the purchase of the land had been finalized. The Camp was dedicated on July 26, 1942.

West Virginia State College operated Camp Washington-Carver for nearly 40 years. A variety of activities were conducted to promote cultural diversity. In 1979 Camp Washington-Carver was transferred to the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

A variety of educational programs that respect the unique history of Camp Washington-Carver and West Virginia, while embracing the significant natural resources associated with its location, can be offered. For example, the Camp will serve as a destination for both Appalachian and African American cultural programming, along with experiences and educational activities in regard to natural resource education, educational outreach, and adventure programming, which are under the umbrella of the University's comprehensive mission.

It is anticipated that the Appalachian String Band Music Festival will be held at the Camp. Also, the Camp will remain available for community events, family reunions, conferences, and weddings.

Return of the property to West Virginia State University will result in it being used for workshops and conferences for WVSU faculty, staff, and students, and the general public and community of Fayette and surrounding counties. Upon return of the property we will begin to assess funding streams for renewal of the property and facilities.

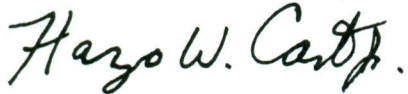
As a Land-Grant University, WVSU implements more than 35 extension and outreach programs through the WVSU Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute.

7

Several of these programs can be implemented at Camp Washington-Carver. These activities serve local communities, as well as counties.

I thank you for providing this forum for comment regarding the request to transfer historic Camp Washington-Carver back to WVSU. As the ninth President of West Virginia State University, I await the finalization of the transfer of property back to the institution where our fifth President was so vitally involved .

Comment Provided By:



Hazo W. Carter, Jr., Ed.D.  
President