

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LOCAL "W" CLUB
BOX 621
INSTITUTE, WV 25112
August 21, 2011**

Attorney Larry Rowe, Chairman
West Virginia State University Board of Governors
P. O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112

Dear Attorney Rowe,

The officers of the West Virginia State University Local "W" Club want to acknowledge our support for Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr., who has been president of WVSU for twenty-four years.

Dr. Carter entered West Virginia State as a seasoned administrator, educated to lead a higher education institution. He recognized the need to increase the awareness of the College in the Kanawha Valley and engaged himself in the community by promoting WVSU with more than 350 television shows, *State Today*, and by moving the institution forward by accomplishing the following:

- He prepared the institution for growth by creating a Research and Development Corporation to serve as fiscal agent for contracts and grants, economic development, and promoting research.
- Academic accreditation is one hallmark of his administration. Guiding the process for two unprecedented ten-year reaccreditations with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, West Virginia State is known as a leader for academic standards. Raising academic standards has led to gaining additional subject area accreditations.
- Dr. Carter has approved the grouping of academic departments to progress from divisions to schools and now to colleges. Institutional stability continued through maintaining administrative areas that were structured to fulfill the institutional mission.
- Strategic planning to provide structured infusion of areas to achieve the goals, objectives and strategies has been successful through seven three-year cycles of his administration. Numerous major accomplishments were planned and monitored through Dr. Carter's leadership. The beauty of the Institute campus is one noticeable planned goal that was brought about strategically.
- WVSU has grown beyond the institution campus to include the Capitol Center, Booker T. Washington Institute, Economic Development Center, and the Gus R. Douglass Land-Grant Institute's numerous outreach centers.
- A long time goal for Dr. Carter was to prepare the institution for university status. When the **alumni** resolved that this goal should be achieved, Dr. Carter led the struggle for West Virginia

State along with three other state colleges to attain university status. This was one of his monumental accomplishments.

When the State of West Virginia passed legislation separating community colleges from their four year counterparts, making the two year schools “stand alone institutions” WVSU lost millions of dollars in revenue, because the KVCTC did not pay its fair share in the following areas: Student tuition, library services, development programs for students and instructional costs to pay faculty to teach classes for two year students, etc. We understand that WVSU asked higher education officials to require the KVCTC to honor this commitment of the agreed reimbursement plan. Other institutions received \$5 million dollars to help in the transition of separating the institutions. State received no such funding. There are many graduates from WVSU who have positions that could help us financially, but they have attended graduate school at other institutions, and they tend to give support to those schools. Those graduates do not feel a connection to our alma mater that says “There is a place we love so dear”.

The faculty vote of “no confidence” in Dr. Carter is most disturbing. Few presidents have weathered the trials and tribulations and legislative actions faced by Dr. Carter. In a State, where little attention is given to the rich history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Dr. Carter has continued to weather the storm and persevere at an institution that has been overlooked and ignored when it comes to funding and fairness.

Regaining the 1890 Land-Grant status and creating the Gus R. Douglass Institute to serve West Virginia is a personal achievement that has caused many to say “West Virginia State will never be the same,” it is now a greater place because Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. is our University President. He is to be commended for his leadership and efforts resulting in the advancement of West Virginia State University.

Very truly yours,

WVSU Local “W” Club Executive Committee:

Walter M. Wilkerson, Sr.	President
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