



August 31, 2018

We start this semester with optimism, excitement, and energy. We kicked off the fall 2018 semester hosting our annual faculty opening session and for the first time at the university an opening session for staff. These efforts are a part of my commitment to improving transparency as well as increasing communication efforts throughout campus. However, most importantly to acknowledge our outstanding staff and faculty.

#### **Enrollment Management and Student Affairs**

It was a fantastic start to our academic year. From the Move-In and Welcome Week activities through State Stride, we welcomed over 400 incoming first time and new transfer students.

#### **Academic Affairs**

The Summer Bridge offered academic enrichment for students who were interested in enrollment in STATE. We are excited for those who selected to enroll and continue their educational progression at STATE.

With the Board of Governor's approval, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) proposal has been submitted to WVHEPC for approval.

Other great news, with the support of our Senators Capito and Manchin, West Virginia State has been selected to receive funding under the UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM (84.047A). This grant will be in the amount of \$522,363.00 for the first budget period (09/01/2018 through 08/31/2019). It is anticipated that the grant will be for a total of 5 year(s).

#### **University Advancement and Communications**

I enjoyed the summer, as I was able to visit and participate in many of the alumni chapter events in North Carolina, Washington, DC, and Houston. Our summer camps hosted by our Extension offices, Health and Human Performance and research leadership, provided a fabulous opportunity for STATE to offer enrichment and learning activities over the summer.

We were proud and blessed to have our beloved alumna, Mrs. Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson back to campus for the statue unveiling and scholarship dedication. More than 500 guests along with her family attended the dedication for the unveiling of the life-size bronze statue on our university quad. We awarded the inaugural scholarships to two deserving young women who are majoring in a STEM field from West Virginia. It will be rewarding to watch their progression as they matriculate through graduation.

## **Research and Public Service**

American Electric Power awarded WVSU a \$250,000 grant to help equip laboratories in the University's new bachelor degree in the chemical engineering program.

## **Campus-wide:**

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Initiative) is joining the U.S. Department of Education's Back to School Tour, September 10-14, 2018. The Executive Director of the Initiative will visit the following states and schools:

- West Virginia- West Virginia State University
- Virginia- Hampton University
- Missouri- Harris Stowe State University
- Kentucky- Kentucky State University

Reflecting the 2018 HBCU Week Conference theme: HBCU Competitiveness: Aligning Institutional Missions with America's Priorities, we would like to focus our visit on how HBCUs help to improve regional, state and U.S. competitiveness.

The Blue Ribbon Commission has met one time to begin its discussions on Four-Year Higher Education in West Virginia. The first meeting was a standard meet-and-greet. Assignments were task to several staffers to gather specifically requested data regarding funding of institutions and HEPC. A second meeting is being scheduled. Again, the BRC is to have its work completed and a recommendation to the Governor no later than December.

We have made some upgrades to the Drain-Jordan Library. The purpose is to provide our students with a more private and comfortable place to gather, study and relax. Also, we are developing a cohesive one-stop-shop Student Success Center for students seeking to maintain and improve their grade point average. The Center, located on the first floor of Wallace Hall, will offer wrap-around support services to include academic coaching in math, writing, workshops, seminars and supplement instruction in several academic subjects.

I've been selected to join #RealMenWearPink Campaign to support cancer research. Please join me and the @AmericanCancerSociety to save more lives from breast cancer by investing in groundbreaking research to better understand, prevent, find, and treat the disease. #RealMenWearPink [www.realmenwearpinkacs.org/wv](http://www.realmenwearpinkacs.org/wv). I appreciate your support.



Below you will find the latest Message from President Jenkins to our campus community. I look forward to our Board meeting on September 6, 2018.



Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Welcome Yellow Jacket Nation to the fall 2018 semester. I hope each of you had a wonderful and rejuvenating summer, as an exciting semester, in both academia and campus life, lies ahead.

I want to extend a special Yellow Jacket welcome to the Class of 2022. I am delighted you have decided to join the STATE family and become a part of our community of scholars!

As we head into the fall semester, I want to challenge all of us to "Do Better, Be Better and Want Better!" Whether it is your academics, social engagement, commitment to an organization or athletic team, or the work you do for our great University, I encourage us to adopt, embrace and apply this mindset to everything we do.

As a member of the STATE family you are expected to excel academically and holistically. Therefore, I encourage you to develop meaningful relationships across campus, take part in University programs and activities that are designed to drive academic excellence, expand educational opportunity, and ignite personal growth and social responsibility. Additionally, I ask that we all continue to practice our University's commitment to equity, multiculturalism, inclusion, civility and diversity. It is my expectation that all members of the WVSU community will behave in a respectful manner and treat others with courtesy and mutual respect.

As we continue to focus on campus safety, effective immediately, all students, staff and faculty are required to carry their University-issued identification card with them at all times. Please stop by the cashier's office on the first floor of Ferrell Hall in room 117 if you do not have a current card.

To faculty and staff, I deeply appreciate your unwavering effort and contributions to ensure that we have a great educational experience for our students. Your hard work and dedication are the differentiating factors that position our University to remain as a major leader in higher education and makes this a wonderful environment for our students to live, learn and grow.

As President, I remain intensely committed to doing all we can to ensure STATE is meeting the needs of our community. Through great teamwork over the summer we have moved our University closer to becoming more student-centered and laying the groundwork to enhance students' college and learning experience.

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This will be another exciting academic year at STATE! Remember to wear your Black and Gold, especially on Fridays, when we encourage the University community to show off their Yellow Jacket pride. I wish each of you a successful academic year and look forward to seeing you around campus.

GO STATE!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony L. Jenkins".

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

President

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