



# Alcorn

Lorman • Natchez • Vicksburg

## Purple & Gold Day '20

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

### Mississippi State Capitol Building

Jackson, Mississippi

#### **Alumni Legislative Advocacy Statement**

Under Mississippi law, Lobbying "means the deliberate attempt to influence political decisions through various forms of advocacy directed at policymakers on behalf of another person, organization or group." The right to influence legislation is protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This protection assumes that people should be involved in the decisions that affect them and that advocacy for a variety of causes is allowable, as citizens, with certain restrictions.

The Alcorn State University National Alumni Association encourages alumni and public involvement in the legislative process in support of the interests of Alcorn State University. However, everyone is advised to please keep in mind and respect state laws and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning's (IHL) established policies, practices and procedures for official legislative advocacy efforts and activities of the system and each university. The president of the university and the designated Legislative Liaison are the official representatives of the institution before the state legislative bodies.

It is our practice to always project the 'Profile of an Alcornite': well groomed, person of knowledge and character and polite with all legislators and staff. Our goal is to be a support mechanism to and not the voice of the university. We are here to share our collective support for Alcorn's agenda and not to advocate for personal projects or interests. If a question is raised in which you do not know the answer, please direct the questioner to contact the Alcorn Legislative Liaison or Alcorn President for clarity and guidance.

#### **ALUMNI MESSAGE**

For the success of the university, it is vital that we all speak with one voice and with one message. Below is the general message and approach we would like to express:

##### **1. THANK YOU!**

- a. Thank each legislator for their support of Alcorn State University last year in the 2019 legislative session and for their support during this year's 2020 session.

- 2. SUPPORT ALCORN & IHL FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING – Bill # TBD**
  - a. IHL FY 2021 E&G Appropriations Funding - \$718,801,843 (*FY 2020 plus*)
  - b. IHL Ayers FY 2021 Appropriations Funding - \$6,733,000
  - c. IHL Capital Expenses R&R Appropriation - \$14,500,000+
  - d. Student Financial Aid Programs FY 2021 - \$54,549,011
  
- 3. SUPPORT ALCORN AGRICULTURE FY 2021 APPROPRIATIONS – Bill # TBD**
  - a. Agriculture Extension & Research Programs FY 2021 Funding - \$6,663,253 (*FY 2016 Level*)
  
- 4. SUPPORT THE IHL BOND BILL PLAN REQUEST FOR 2020 – Bill # TBD  
ALCORN PRIORITIES (\$68.5 Million TOTAL NEED)**
  - a. Campus Safety and Security – \$3,650,000
  - b. Campus Dormitory Renovations Phase 1 – \$5,000,000
  - c. School of Agriculture Child Development Lab/Center – \$2,700,000

### **LOCATE MY LEGISLATOR**

#### **Contacting your Legislators at the Mississippi Capitol**

1. Telephone Calls: Dial (601) 359-3770 and the Capitol Receptionists will take a message and forward your written message to the Legislator's Desk.
  
2. E-Mails: The Mississippi State Legislature Roster links contains an alphabetical contact listing of all Legislators:
  - HOUSE [http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/h\\_roster.pdf](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/h_roster.pdf)
  - SENATE [http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/s\\_roster.pdf](http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/members/s_roster.pdf)
  
3. Personal Visits: Both Chambers are located on the Third Floor. Locate the relevant receptionist and prepare a self-written message that will be delivered to your legislator, by a page, informing them that you are outside the chamber and would like to visit with them. Be prepared for a metal detector security and check in on the *first floor* as you enter the building.
  - Receptionist for the House of Representatives (West side of the State Capitol);
  - Receptionist for the Senate (East side of the State Capitol).