



August 21, 2018

RE: MY APPRECIATIONS | Faculty & Staff Institute and Alcorn All-Stars Luncheon

Dear Alcorn Community:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the assistance you gave to plan and deploy the 2018 Fall Faculty & Staff Institute and the inaugural First Alcorn All-Star Academic Advising Recognition Luncheon.

While I expressed a great deal of appreciations throughout the institute, I extend thanks again to Reverend Rhodes and Tony Gordon for readying us to receive the messages of the day; our Facilities/Buildings & Grounds Teams (c/o Mrs. Dupre', Dr. Posey and Mr. Shedrick) for their assistance; Alumni Affairs for the speaker's accommodations; Marketing for photography, pictures, and Marcus' presentation on the role advising played in his career growth; and Student Affairs staff c/o Mr. Cook and Moses for preparation of the ballroom. The presence of the police is always appreciated and allows us all to enjoy events with a sense of security and safety.

Our SGA President Robert Tatum, Jr. did a tremendous job representing the student voice and introducing our speaker, Dr. Charlie Nutt, whose message was memorable, meaningful, and magnificent.

I was enthused to see the innovations rolled out by CITS: Indeed, the newfangled digital video board and newly-deployed attendance swiping system are boons for our campus. The efforts of Dr. Benson along with Mssrs. Stewart, Howard, Lawrence, Stephney, and others is acknowledged as they remained indefatigable as they worked through any technological snafus (while finalizing Canvas startup).

Of course, I especially thank the "A-Team" of Academic Affairs--without them neither event would have been as successful. The A-Team arrived early and worked steadily throughout to ensure everything was set up, well ordered, and ready to go without a hitch:

Mrs. Benjamin was the first to suggest we find the faculty and staff the nicest gift our budget would allow; Ms. Keys had her artistic talents in exquisite form (designing the "A" for the Luncheon Program, All-Star certificates/covers, Institute program, and the coveted basket); Ms. Buie ensured all speaker details, gifts, flights, arrangements, contracts, and accommodations were handled with precision; Ms. Carr managed logistics, details, memos, and communications so that they were disseminated timely and routinely. All did much more.

The team was extremely patient when I would abruptly leave planning meetings to handle issues or dash to a meeting. Mr. Lamont Williams and Ms. Angel Brinner kept the office phones answered and matters attended to while staff performed other planning duties.

Mrs. Weir's ebullience was ever irrepressible and kept the event invigorating, entertaining, energized, and elevated. Dr. Tolliver-Cook held us spellbound with her riveting introduction of new faculty and guests.

All vendors (Livetext and Helicopter Evacuation) are appreciated for their contributions. Our gift sponsors included: Alcorn Experiment Station, ASU Bookstore, ASU Foundation, Inc., Athletic Business and Parking Services, Cooperative Extension, Department of Athletics, Graduate Studies, Office of Admissions and Recruiting, Office of the President, School of Agriculture and University College. Thank you immensely for your generosity.

The audience was most receptive, participative, and active in their engagement with our outstanding speaker and the events associated with the Institute and Advising All-Stars Luncheon. Dr. Lee's presence and support great significance to both watershed events.

The First Annual Alcorn State University All-Stars Appreciation Luncheon was a tremendous success thanks to Dr. Valerie Thompson as master of ceremony and Mr. Dogar for the go.alcorn "Courses that Count" presentation. Thank you again Sodexo for the delicious meal. Tracy Robinson, a Sodexo employee, was nominated as an Alcorn Advising All-Star. She was unable to be there because she was serving our students. Congratulations, Tracy!--and kudos, again, to all Alcorn Advising All-Stars!

In conclusion, the launch of both events came about from broad-based, collaborative effort. I have seen time and again what happens when we come together and work in respectful collaboration: We achieve amazing creative outcomes for our university community and one another!

You put forth a prodigious effort that yielded a pre-eminent performance. Again, thanks to all of you for all that you do for Alcorn State University.

Always Alcorn! Always the best.



John G. Igwebuike
Interim Provost & EVPAA

P.S. - We would appreciate hearing from you. Please share comments, concerns, and conversations → [here](#).