



Alcorn
State University

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2015
TO: Alcorn State University Community
FROM: Alfred Rankins, Jr., 19th President *ARJ*
RE: **125TH CELEBRATION OF THE 1890 MORRILL ACT**

In 1890, the United States Congress passed the second Morrill Act sponsored by Justin Morrill which established nineteen 1890 Black Land-Grant Institutions. This year, all 1890 Institutions commemorate passage of this historic law by way of the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Morrill Act of 1890. The theme is, "Providing Access and Enhancing Opportunities."

The 125th Anniversary celebration commenced in January and culminates Fall 2015 with the National Day of Prayer. Also, Alcorn will host other celebratory activities while showcasing our beloved University. For instance, take special note of the **National 1890 Day of Wellness** (Thursday, April 23, 2015). Here, all nineteen Institutions participate in an *1890 Second Morrill Act Wellness Walk/Run*. This event seeks to attract 1,890 participants who bravely traverse a route extending 1.890 miles across campus. The registration fee is \$18.90, per person, with additional contributions going to support student scholarships.

In addition to the National Day of Wellness, you can make the 125th Anniversary celebration a major success by doing the following:

- Contribute to the 1890 scholarship fund at Alcorn;
- Sponsor one or more of our students in the *Wellness Walk/Run*;
- Encourage students to get involved in the celebration, including the 1890 Essay Competition; and,
- Support the 125th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon (ticketed event) in August, 2015.

Please know that all contributions, donations, proceeds (i.e. Walk/Run registration fees) will be used to fund a new Justin Morrill Scholarship that will benefit Alcorn State University students.

More information on the 125th Second Morrill Act Celebration at Alcorn can be accessed from the link on Alcorn's homepage (<http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/areas/the-125th-celebration-of-the-1890-morrill-act/index.aspx>). From there, you can make contributions, register for the walk/run, purchase T-shirts for the 1890 walk/run, see a schedule of Alcorn's events, and learn more about the rich history of Alcorn and other 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

As the first public land-grant institution, focused on access, academics, agriculture, and athletics, I am confident that the Braves Nation will make our celebration events banner events. I thank you in advance for your generous support.