



# Alcorn

State University

February 10, 2020

Greetings Colleagues,

Welcome back. Since returning from winter break, I hope that you have had time to reflect on how to build on the great successes of 2019, although it is more likely that you've barely had time to catch a breath. Nonetheless, here we are, working together again to forge a better future for our students and their families.

As we progress through this semester and beyond, I am reminded of a quote attributed to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "In nature we never see anything isolated, but everything in connection with something else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it." Goethe expresses the "connectedness" of nature, suggesting that each part links to create the whole. So too we in the Alcorn family work individually and collectively toward a shared vision, and we are only as strong as our weakest link. To that end, as we create new links, whether in mentoring new faculty, or sharing our knowledge with students, we should seek to create only the strongest links. As we embark on the eve of our sesquicentennial, I hope that we perceive the chain that links us as our heritable bond, and not as an impediment to our growth and prosperity.

As we begin the semester, I wanted to remind you of your charge as members of Alcorn's Corps of Instruction. Properly discharge your contractual duties as follows;

- meet all of your classes on time and in the designated place, or inform your supervisor if you cannot meet your class
- provide office hours and student advisement in accordance with university policy
- provide midterm as well as final grades at the prescribed times
- participate in all commencement exercises.

In addition to your contracted responsibilities, we are facing a few urgent deadlines. Among them, and in no specific order;

- credential all faculty
- streamline course offerings and programs
- build more robust policies and processes

All are necessary to position the university for our Quality Enhancement Plan, Certification Compliance Review, and for the Strategic Planning initiative. If you receive a request related to any of these items or some which may not be listed, I hope that you will see it as an opportunity to strengthen the university as well as to build your professional portfolio.

I am honored to play a small role alongside you, the students, faculty, staff, deans, chairs, Cabinet, Alumni, and all of our supporters across the country who wish us well. I along with President Nave welcome you back and wish you a productive and stimulating Spring.

Sincerely,

Keith A. McGee, Ph.D

Interim Provost and Executive VPAA