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February 17, 2020

The Honorable Stanley E. Saylor, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
245 Main Capitol Building  
PO Box 202094  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2094

**Re: 2020-2021 State Appropriation**

Dear Chairman Saylor:

Lincoln University has benefited greatly from the Commonwealth's support for many years. I want to express our gratitude for the House of Representatives' continuous support of our institution. Over the past two years, the House has recommended an average of a 2.5 % increase in appropriation for the State-Related institutions. For Lincoln, this has meant about a \$750,000 increase to our appropriation. We have used these funds to support Lincoln's highest priorities, namely greater financial support for in-state students as well as support for general operations.

The return on the Commonwealth's investments has paid great dividends. However, in view of the enrollment crisis currently affecting higher education and recent decisions made by the Lincoln University Board of Trustees, I am asking the Committee to consider my request for a flat \$2 million increase to Lincoln University's base appropriation.

Lincoln University experienced a small decline in enrollment this academic year and expects little to no growth in the coming year. Tuition, fees, room and board account for 70% of our operating budget. The University is adjusting its budget in anticipation of flat enrollment over the next couple of years. In addition, the Lincoln University Board of Trustees recently defeated a motion to increase tuition and fees by 2% and a vote on a 2% increase in room and board charges is expected to follow suit. This comes on the heels of Board approval of three Collective Bargaining Agreements, each of which commits the University to 2.5% salary increases. Tuition dollars never fully cover the marginal costs associated with offering a high quality education much less allow institutions to invest in new initiatives. The actions of Lincoln's Board of Trustees coupled with the anticipated enrollment shortfall will not only hinder the Institution's ability to cover its obligations but will also impede the University's progress. The

*Mission: Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting Historically Black College & University (HBCU), educates and empowers students to lead their communities and change the world.*

*Regional accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.*

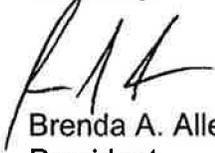
*Lincoln University is an equal opportunity employer.*

requested \$2 million increase will support our efforts to keep students in school and maintain financial stability as we identify new income streams.

The ability to support our students financially and educationally through this crisis will ensure that Lincoln continues along the trajectory of excellence noted by several recent success stories. I am pleased to report that in 2019 the Middle-States Commission on Higher Education fully reaffirmed Lincoln University's accreditation. Recent rankings by U.S. News and World Report place Lincoln University in the top 20 of Historically Black Colleges (HBCU) and in the top 50 Public Universities in the Northern Region. Lincoln has also received two consecutive upgrades by Moody's Investment Service over the last two years. The University recently rated number ten among all HBCUs as a best value college and we are noted as a leader in the region for social mobility. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support of the State of Pennsylvania in general and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in particular.

Lincoln University has been transforming the lives of individuals from vulnerable communities since 1854, more than 10 years before the emancipation of the race. We appreciate the funds from the Commonwealth and hope that the State considers increasing its investment at this crucial point in the University's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.A. Allen', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brenda A. Allen  
President

c: Members, Pennsylvania House of Representatives Appropriations Committee