



W. L. Bonner College

“Preparing them for proclaiming Him”

Friday, February 14, 2014

Dear WLBC Stakeholders and Constituents:

Thank you for your continual and ongoing support of W. L. Bonner College (WLBC). We thank each student, alumnus, employee, board member, partner, and supporter, for your many contributions over the years. As many of you know, assessments and evaluations show that the College has demonstrated acceptable and outstanding performance on some levels, but has struggled to ensure its fiscal health, especially during the last four years. The downturn in the economy has affected annual giving, as well as enrollment. These economic crises, however, have caused the College to bloom, as the board and administration have joined forces in developing diverse streams of revenue, beyond that of denominational support. These efforts have begun to show results that the fiscal health of the College is improving, but more time is needed to report greater and more significant results. For this reason, the Board of Trustees and College Dean/Interim President have made a decision to withdraw, temporarily, from our accredited status with The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), but seek an affiliate relationship over the next year. Thus, the College will maintain close ties with ABHE over this next year, informing them of ongoing institutional progress, coming up to October 31, 2014, when a Self Study will be presented for reinstatement.

Another decision was made to withdraw, temporarily, and, voluntarily, from Title IV Participation. To assist our students in continuing their studies during this period, scholarships will be offered to eligible and qualifying returning, as well as, new students. Partial waiver is also an option for a small percentage of the student population. We expect to re-apply to the United States Department of Education (USDE) for Title IV Participation, for the 2015-2016 school year.

There are development projects that are underway to (a) increase enrollment and (b) enhance fiscal resources. To increase enrollment, the College has expanded its Continuing Education Program, holding classes at some of the denominational facilities. These courses are taught by those listed among the WLBC faculty. Thus far, 38 students are enrolled in this program, and at least 50 are expected to enroll by Fall 2014 semester.

To increase fiscal revenue, the College has rallied its alumni across states to participate in its new initiative (Sports and Athletics in Fundraising). This project began with our first annual golf tournament, which was held during Homecoming, August 2013. Following homecoming, the College began discussions and negotiations for a partnership with Gator Ball Academy, Larry

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“Gator” Rivers, Founder and CEO, and Capers Enterprise, Bruce “Sugar Bear” Capers (Founder & CEO). Both Rivers and Capers are former Harlem Globetrotter Legends, who have organized the Harlem Legends. Through this partnership, the College contracts with institutions to rent their sports facilities to host celebrity games. The first of these events (Celebrity Game Weekend) was held in Columbia, South Carolina, February 7-8, 2014, at Brookland Baptist Conference Center. Further events will be hosted through the WLBC Alumni Association and also denominational supporters. Already, this partnership has generated enormous results. We hope to have at least 40 percent of our graduates involved, at some level, by December 2014, as these plans continue.

- Celebrity Game Weekend—Columbia, South Carolina (February 7-8, 2014); held Brookland Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina. Seven Legends were inducted into the WLBC Hall of Fame; in Celebrity Game Former Harlem Globetrotter Legends will play WLBC Exhibition Team.
- Celebrity Game Weekend—Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, Raleigh, North Carolina (August 22-23, 2014); hosted by Alumni and Denominational Sponsor (Refuge Lamb of God and True Holiness); Clinton Harris, Alumnus and Development Coordinator for North Carolina; in Celebrity Game Former Harlem Globetrotter Legends will play the North Carolina Legends. Three Pillars of the Sponsoring Organization will be inducted into the WLBC Hall of Fame.
- Celebrity Game Weekend—Columbia University, New York, New York (October 17-18, 2014); hosted by New York Development Coordinator, Lewis Ward.

We ask that each of you contact us for further discussion of this correspondence, as your educational and professional development is our utmost concern. We will be happy to explain how this temporary decision will affect your enrollment at WLBC, over the next year. We hope that your decision will be to “weather this storm” with us, and witness what God can do through those who remain faithful throughout this process.

Please feel free to contact me at (803) 754-3950, or emcqueen@wlbc.edu. Other details pertaining to this correspondence can be accessed through our website at www.wlbc.edu.

In His grip,

Elaine McQueen

College Dean/Interim President

CC: WLBC Board of Trustees—Dr. Celeste Ashe-Johnson, Board Chair Lady
The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE)—Ron Kroll