

May 7, 2010

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Board of Trustees
Arkansas State University

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Dear Trustees:

Jonesboro, Arkansas

I am grateful for your leadership and support which has enabled Arkansas State University to grow and improve in numerous ways. I am pleased that we have achieved many of the goals we listed over the past 15 years. Working together, we developed the Arkansas State University System to advocate for and support the campuses. We have constructed new buildings and created beautiful campuses throughout our region. The ASU System has expanded its academic offerings, from workforce certificates through new PhD programs. Economic development capabilities have been added to our strengths in teaching, research, and service. We have initiated shared governance processes, and we have realized diversity objectives. The Arkansas Biosciences Institute has joined an elite group of other specialized research facilities. We have stayed true to our mission to provide access to higher education for Arkansans; and to enhance that goal, we have implemented effective and efficient distance learning technologies on each of the campuses.

With your encouragement and support for distance learning, we now deliver courses and programs online to thousands of students. Those online activities have increased our enrollments and produced new revenues to sustain academic growth. Students have high regard for these new delivery methods and they have produced quality academic work. Faculty members who have used these technologies have developed new skills and have been able to share their expertise with ever growing numbers of students. We have only begun to understand our potential in this new territory.

My experiences with online learning have made me aware that we have unlimited capability to extend higher education to students who want what we can offer them, but who may not otherwise be able to earn a college degree on campus. I now realize that I want to focus the remainder of my career on exploring how online education can be used to address challenges facing both higher education and underserved populations. Using skills I have learned as president, I hope to become an advocate for these new learning technologies and to teach others about these opportunities.

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While I sincerely appreciate the board's recent offer of a contract extension and salary increase to continue as president, it is my desire to pursue these personal goals. Therefore, I respectfully submit my resignation as president of the Arkansas State University System, effective June 30, 2010. I am and will continue to be grateful to the trustees for the great honor and privilege to have served the board and the Arkansas State University System as president.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Wyatt', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Leslie Wyatt
President

LW:pk