

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
**Clinton School of Public Service**



**James L. "Skip" Rutherford III**  
Dean

September 14, 2020

Dr. Donald W. Bobbitt, President  
University of Arkansas System  
2404 N. University Avenue  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Dr. Bobbitt:

I will be retiring as Dean of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service effective June 30, 2021. Since becoming Dean in 2006, after coordinating the Clinton Presidential Library project, it has been a privilege associating with many outstanding students, staff, faculty, alumni, volunteers, and friends.

Though completely unexpected at the time, I am grateful Dr Alan Sugg recruited me and I certainly have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you, Dr. Sugg and others throughout the UA System. It has been personally special being part of the nation's first master of public service program founded by President Clinton and inaugurated by Founding Dean David Pryor. But since higher education is always a work in progress, I also believe the best for the Clinton School is yet to be.

Facing one of higher education's most significant challenges, the Clinton School is successfully navigating coronavirus co-existence. This is in large part due to a dedicated faculty and staff, the experiences gained following the 2018 introduction of an on-line degree program, low overhead costs, no long term debt and a successful fall 2020 admission cycle. Knowing Covid-19's repercussions may well extend into the 2021-2022 school year and beyond, this planning is continuing.

When I reflect on the Clinton School experience, the highlights are many but none more meaningful than the ongoing successes of our graduates and the immediate, short term and long term outcomes of over 1,100 community based field service projects.

Through degree affordability, the impactful project based learning academic curriculum, collaborations with over 600 partnering organizations worldwide and over 1,400 programs through a free speaker series, I have tried to keep the public in public service.

Again, thank you, and I will help anyway I can during the leadership transition.

All the Best,



James L. "Skip" Rutherford III  
Dean