

AN OPEN LETTER FROM
The Leaders of Batesville and Independence County, Arkansas

August 25, 2021

Lyon College Board of Trustees
Attn: Chair, Perry Wilson
2300 Highland Drive
Batesville, AR 72501

Lyon Board of Trustees:

On behalf of our community, we are all disappointed and shocked by interview comments from Lyon President, Dr. W. Joseph King in the article "*Managing Political Tensions*" in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Dr. King's inaccurate portrayal of the community and later comments about the State of Arkansas have resulted in overwhelming disdain for his role as a leader in this community and shattered confidence in his ability to represent and lead Lyon College.

The community at large supports and cares for the faculty, staff and students of Lyon College, our neighbors, friends and family. However, confidence in the current administration has been lost and partnerships are irreparable. This has been made perfectly clear from the numerous phone calls and messages from our constituents, members and neighbors demanding action.

We all join together, united, to urge the board of trustees to terminate the employment of W. Joseph King so this community, its leaders, and Lyon College can move forward in unity.

Sincerely,

Rick Elumbaugh

Robert Griffin

Crystal Johnson