

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE



July 10, 2017

Fellow Morehouse Men,

Today marks two weeks since I was appointed Interim President of Morehouse College. I want to move quickly to establish a collaborative environment and transparent communications with all of our stakeholders. To that end, I am writing to introduce myself to the many alumni I have not yet met and to establish my commitment to keep you informed of what is happening at our alma mater. Morehouse College is at its best when our overall leadership including faculty, staff, trustees, and most importantly our alumni are all working together to strengthen the institution. Collectively, we can deliver on our core mission of *“developing African American men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership and service.”*

Our alumni are critical to our success and it will be my goal to communicate with you directly and frequently. On behalf of our leadership team, I will provide updates on our priorities, our challenges, our progress, and our needs for the future. I plan to visit local alumni chapters across the country and increase our use of multiple communication channels (e.g., email updates, videos, townhalls, social media, live streaming) to keep you informed. I will also work closely with Henry Goodgame, our Director of Alumni Engagement, and Dr. Howard Willis, our National Alumni Association President, to ensure that the alumni have every opportunity to offer input and help us achieve our strategic priorities.

In my brief time as Interim President, I have hit the ground running to provide the forward-looking, bold, and collaborative leadership we need to achieve our long-term vision. I met with dozens of people including faculty, staff, students, alumni, college supporters, as well as leaders in the non-profit and private sectors - and through these discussions, I have gained an even deeper appreciation for the vast community supporting Morehouse. I believe that our best days are still ahead and I look forward to working with our alumni as we move towards building a stronger Morehouse College.

Over the next several months, my team and I will develop a specific and actionable strategy to position Morehouse College for long-term success in the rapidly changing higher education landscape. We will seek your input and feedback as plans are developed, and understand that engaging all of our stakeholders through strategy formulation helps insulate our college from potential disruptions that occur during leadership transitions. Our priority is the long-term success of the College.

Recently we made a plea to alumni to make financial contributions before the end of the fiscal year ending June 30th. I want to say THANK YOU. You answered our call in historic fashion.

During a span of only five days, we received over 300 alumni contributions totaling more than \$220,000 to help strengthen our college. Thank you for your support and commitment to our alma mater!

Finally, we are excited to welcome the Class of 2021 to campus in less than one month. I want to thank our alumni chapters for all that you do to support the College, including the critical role you played in recruiting and supporting these young men on their journey to Morehouse.

I will be in touch soon with more insights on the next generation of Morehouse students, as well as further updates on our progress. Please feel free to email me directly at harold.martinjr@morehouse.edu if you have questions, comments, or perspectives to share. I look forward to hearing from you.

In the service of Dear Ol' Morehouse,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold L. Martin, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harold L. Martin, Jr. '02
Interim President, Morehouse College