March 18, 2020

Dear LeMoyne-Owen College Students,

We have entered a critical time nationally and globally with the spread of COVID-19. Things are happening quickly, but you remain our priority, and that includes your safety. With that in mind, effective March 18, the campus will be closed to the public for the remainder of the semester. And per federal recommendation, we must also cancel College-sponsored travel and large events, including Honors Convocation, scheduled for April 8.

**Learning at LOC will continue! Beginning March 30, we will shift from face-to-face instruction to offer courses remotely for the remainder of the spring semester.** Each faculty member is expected to communicate directly to the students on their class roster(s) and provide you with the necessary instruction and materials to successfully complete the requirements of your course(s). We want to ensure that this change in our instructional delivery does not have a negative impact on student engagement, retention and ultimately your success.

If you are a graduating senior, this is certainly not the way we had hoped to wrap up your time with the college. You have added value to this already historic institution, and we are forever grateful. **However, in continuing to follow the CDC’s recommendations for the safety of all, we have made the difficult decision to postpone commencement, which was originally scheduled for May 9, 2020 until further notice.** This includes Lantern Service and any alumni reunion activities usually associated with graduation weekend.

We understand that this is a milestone and major accomplishment that you have worked so hard to achieve, and if at all possible, we hope to celebrate you with the full commencement experience when it is safe to do so. For now, we will be working to ensure your transition to graduate school or to start your career is seamless with regards to having the necessary documents.

More details on preceding matters, such as graduation checkout and degree distribution, are forthcoming. Please continue to check your LOC email or our [COVID-19 hub](https://www.loc.edu) at loc.edu for updates and we will keep you informed as guidance changes.

Magicians, please continue to practice the safety measures provided to remain safe and healthy. Thank you for choosing LeMoyne-Owen College.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Dr. Carol Johnson Dean
Interim President