



Far West Region Newsletter
July 25, 2020

GREETINGS, ALL!

Though I can be really creative when writing fictional stories, I could never have conjured up the story that we are living right now! I pray that your families are whole and unaffected by the COVID-19 virus. We also remain hopeful that systemic racism and deep inequities for black and brown people are finally being taken seriously! This is a tough time in terms of unemployment and uncertainty, but State Alumni are tough people! I'm proud of the way WVSU continues to rise in spite of everything happening today. Here's an update on what's happening. – Carol Parham-Bell, Far West Region Director

THE NEWS AROUND STATE...

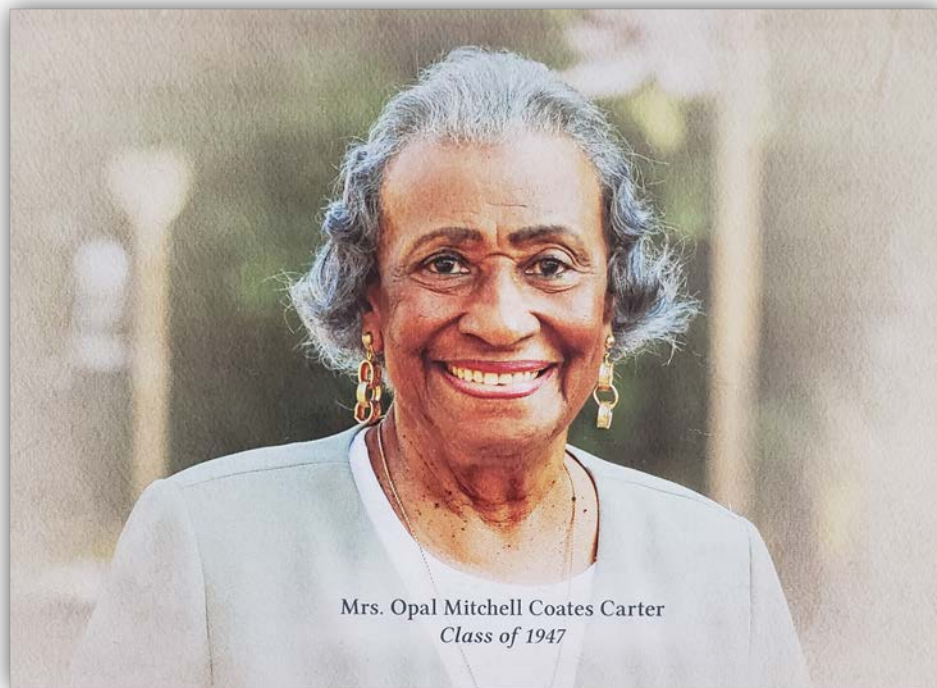
As WVSU bid farewell to Dr. Anthony Jenkins, we welcomed one of our own to temporarily stand in the gap. Dr. R. Charles Byers, Class of 1968, took the helm and held the ship steady until a successor was chosen. He has been a very loyal, dependable, and essential source of knowledge and stability as State has transitioned through multiple administrations. Dr. Byers is steady in his leadership, and has said that he will help wherever he is needed and will stay as long as necessary. In this interim period as we navigate these health and social issues, Dr. Byers has established a new Office of Diversity and Inclusion at State. His hopes are to address the problems we are facing as a society, and to equip students with the knowledge to deal with issues as they arise in their lives. As you may recall, in 2003, West Virginia State University, (then College) officially became a host institution for a Freedom Station on the National Underground Railroad program. With that designation, WVSU's mission is to educate the public about the global context of slavery and the historic struggle in West Virginia to abolish human enslavement, secure freedom and equal rights for people of all cultures, and promote dialogue in the ongoing struggle. From our first President, Dr. Byrd Prillerman, who was recommended by Booker T. Washington, to our interim President, Dr. R. Charles Byers, West Virginia State University stands as a "living laboratory of human relations" blending a diverse population of students, faculty and staff together to promote education and the betterment and understanding of the human race and condition.



Dr. Byers is also looking to name the IREB Building after past President Dr. Hazo Carter. He has cited many achievements by Dr. Carter and his wife, who expanded our footprint in Kanawha Valley in Agriculture, Research, and Teaching. Dr. Carter lead the 12-year quest to regain the institution's 1890 land grant status and secured other state funding as well. Following a resolution from our National Alumni Association in 2000, he provided the leadership that resulted in West Virginia State College being designated as West Virginia State University on April 7, 2004.

There has been a rumor circulating that State is closing. THAT IS INCORRECT!!! In this pandemic, enrollment may be a concern. However, there are remedies and instruments available to help as we move through these COVID-19 times. Stay tuned and keep believing in and supporting our alma mater! We have weathered many storms in our past and remained standing tall and getting better. Go State!

The Far West Region is proud to announce the Opal Carter Far West Region Scholarship. This scholarship was named after the illustrious matriarch of our region. Opal has received many awards for her contributions to her school, workplaces, and the communities that she served. She is the last living of the seven signers of the Agreement of Incorporation for the West Virginia State University National Alumni Association, which is on file at the Capital Building in Charleston. Opal is from the class of 1947 and was the 3rd grade teacher of Dr. Charles Byers. The Alumni Archives in the Erickson Alumni Building was named in her honor thanks to a generous financial contribution from the late Dr. Samuel Lynch, a former student and cheerleader for WVSU.



Mrs. Opal Mitchell Coates Carter
Class of 1947

New President Alert!



On July 2, 2020, the WVSU Board of Governors named the 12th President – Dr. Nicole Pride. Dr. Pride began her career in corporate and non-profit sectors, and left industry to begin her service in higher education at North Carolina A&T State University, where she served as principal liaison to the chancellor, and provided strategic and operational support for internal constituencies. Please take the time to read about Dr. Pride in the July 2nd announcement. She is excited about her new presidency and is impressed by the beauty of our campus. Hats off to the alumni who sat in on interviews via Zoom! With a dedicated alumni base, I'm certain that together we can propel West Virginia State University to new heights in our quest for educational excellence.

It seems unreal that there will be no Homecoming this year!!! State is known far and wide for our action-packed, weekend-long event that keeps us cemented together as an alumni body. The National Alumni Association was forced to postpone the 25th National WVSUNAA Conference due to the coronavirus. Now, we have to re-imagine Homecoming 2020 for the same reason. In person homecoming is not possible, but Belinda Fuller, Alumni Affairs Director, in concert with our Executive Board, have developed a wonderful way for alumni to summon your school spirit... even in a pandemic! It's a "win win" competition for the students at State. Most of us would have spent big bucks or at the very least, \$150.00 to attend homecoming events. So instead, we are calling on alumni to donate some or all of those dollars to help provide scholarships and financial help to students. Please read through the walkthrough of the donation site and the link to make your donation (included at the end of this newsletter). The fun part is when you click on "Donor Wall" and you get to see where all of the donations are coming from as your state lights up when you give. Let's establish bragging rights as we light up the Far West Region from Texas to Hawaii, California to Washington and the states between!!! Every dollar helps, so please give!

The 25th National WVSUNAA Conference has not been canceled! It has merely been postponed until April 2021. We hope to see you in Baltimore, Maryland at the Marriott Inner Harbor. As alumni, we have lots of planning to do – Let us pray!

There is a place we love so dear...



*Carol Parham-Bell, Class of '79
Far West Region Director*

How to Donate to State for Homecoming 2020

Click the link in the email, or go to <https://www.wvstateu.edu/> and click on the Alumni tab. In the gold banner at the top of the page, click **Donate Now: Homecoming 2020**. You'll see a black page showing a progress bar for the Participation Drive.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Alumni Relations

Home About Log In

Homecoming 2020

Participation Drive
35 Gifts

4%
Towards goal of 800 Gifts
\$9,400.00 Raised

66 DAYS LEFT
Project ends on September 27, at 12:00 AM EDT

> Project Owners

Share to Maximize IMPACT

f t in

Give Now

Below that, you'll see more information, including a message from Belinda Fuller and Dr. Lateef Saffore, as well as a Donor Wall that shows names of donors and the states they represent.

Description **Updates (1)** **Donor Wall** **Ambassadors**

You can help WVSU by donating what you would have spent on Homecoming!

Dear Yellow Jackets,

Each year, we look forward to welcoming our alumni and friends to campus to celebrate and enjoy "a place we love so dear," but this year, due to COVID-19, Homecoming 2020 has officially been cancelled.

While it was a difficult decision, we know you understand as we did so in consideration of your safety and wellbeing. Homecoming has always been a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, and to strengthen our ties to our University.

Although we won't be gathering in person this year, we invite you to consider donating all or a significant portion of what you would have spent during your annual trip back to our beloved institution.

Your gift will help the National Alumni Association, Alumni Relations and the WVSU Foundation provide support to our University and students during this challenging time. We hope to see each of you at Homecoming 2021, as we anticipate being able to celebrate on the campus of our beautiful alma mater! Go State!

Belinda Fuller, '06
Director of Alumni Relations

Lateef Y. Saffore, Ph.D., MS, '96
National President, WVSUAA

P.S. Please be sure to check your tee shirt size on the donation page.

Description **Updates (1)** **Donor Wall** **Ambassadors**

Search Donors

#8 Texas 0 Donors

Joan Morris Belcher	\$150	8 hours ago
Anonymous	\$1,000	10 hours ago
Nathaniel Williams	\$150	1 day ago
Danny Blair	\$150	1 day ago
Amber Cunningham	\$50	2 days ago

VT MA NH RI CT DE MD

Contrastless Door Opener

When you click the gold Give Now button (on the black part of the screen), you will be taken to a page that shows the giving levels and perks, along with frequently asked questions. Once selected, you will fill in your contact information, billing address, and t-shirt size (for donations of \$150 or more). If you would prefer to send a check instead, complete the form on the next page and mail it to the school.

Please enter the amount you would like to contribute*:

\$ 50.00

Or select a giving level below

\$50

Donate General Registration
Donate the cost of a general registration and we will send you a WVSU mask, and giving level recognition.

\$150

Donate Homecoming Package
Donate the cost of a homecoming package and we will send you a WVSU tee shirt, mask and giving level recognition.

\$250

Donate Homecoming Wardrobe
Donate the cost of your new homecoming weekend outfits. Styled from head to toe! You will receive a WVSU tee shirt, mask, contactless door opener and giving level recognition.

\$500

Donate Embassy Weekend Stay
Donate the cost of a weekend hotel stay. You will receive a WVSU tee shirt, mask, contactless door opener, tumbler and giving level recognition.

\$1,000

Homecoming Premium Package
Donate the cost of an amazing homecoming experience. You will receive a WVSU tee shirt, mask, contactless door opener, tumbler, rechargeable wireless earbuds and giving level recognition.

\$1,500

Homecoming VIP Experience
"All Things Homecoming" Donate the cost of travel, homecoming wardrobe, hotel stay, car rental, football game, tailgating, homecoming dinners, parties, class reunion celebrations, homecoming registration, bookstore shopping, etc. With a minimum amount of \$1500, you will receive a WVSU tee shirt, mask, contactless door opener, tumbler, rechargeable wireless earbuds, exclusive notification of 2021 homecoming registration and hotel booking guarantee in host hotel and giving level recognition.

FAQ

West Virginia State University Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 public charity as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and all gifts are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Thank you for supporting WVSU and our students!

IT STARTS AT STATE!
If you are having issues making your donation, please visit <https://connect.wvstateu.edu/donate/>

Is my gift tax deductible?
Outright gifts of cash to West Virginia State University Foundation, Inc. are charitable contributions and qualify for deductions on your federal income tax return for those who itemize deductions.

Can I mail in my gift?
Of course! Mail your gift to:
West Virginia State University Foundation
100 East Hall
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112

Can my company match my gift?
Yes! Many companies will match the gifts of their employees; all you need to do is ask!
Find out if your company provides matching gifts by checking with your human resources department or contact the WVSU Foundation at (304) 766-3130.

T-Shirt Size? (Minimum amount \$150) Optional

Select an option

Give Now

Donor Wall Settings

☒ Display my name and donation amount on the Donor Wall.

☐ Do not display my name on the Donor Wall.

☐ Do not display my donation amount on the Donor Wall.

☐ Do not display my name and donation amount on the Donor Wall.

Choose your donor wall settings – whether or not you wish to share your name and donation amount – and click the final Give Now button. You're all done!



Please complete this form and send it with your gift to:
WVSU Foundation – PO Box 1000 – 100 East Hall – Institute, WV 25112-1000

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Graduate Class Year: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my gift to support:



May we share on the Donor Wall:

Your Name: yes _____ no _____

Donation amount: yes _____ no _____

Ambassador: Please share the name of the alumni leader that solicited your gift with a personal ask, if applicable.

Payment details: (check any that apply)

\$_____ Check (payable to WVSU Foundation)

\$_____ One time credit card charge

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

Card Type: American Express Visa Discover MasterCard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CCV (number on back of card): _____



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