



Dear Alums,

Over the past weeks and months members of the Executive Board/Steering Committee of the National Alumni Association National Conference have been monitoring the impact of the spread of the Coronavirus Disease. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have released health advisory information regarding risk for serious illness caused by this virus among vulnerable population demographics which include individuals with chronic medical conditions (e.g. heart disease, diabetes and lung disease) individuals age 60 and over, and small children. According to this health advisory notice, many of our attendees of this conference are at risk.

Careful consideration about the status of our National Conference originally scheduled for April 22-26th 2020 in Baltimore, Maryland have been deliberated and assessed based on health risk for all alums, friends of the university and other attendees. With cases identified in states across the country namely, in Baltimore, we have decided to **postpone** our national conference. We have determined that bringing together more than 400 attendees, at this time, is not prudent.

While the risk of exposing alums to the virus is of concern, we also believe that an empty room is also not the best use of the resources provided by our alums and the many sponsors of the conference. We have formed an adhoc team to assist us with developing financial and legal resolutions for all stakeholders to arrive at an amicable agreement to support the postponement and subsequent use of resources at our National Conference rescheduled for **April of 2021**.

Please take the next couple of days to cancel your reservations with the hotel, airline, rental car and third-party travel agents and online sites (e.g. Expedia, Orbit etc.) to comply with most cancelation policies that require a 30-day advance notice.

Our momentum we have gained during the planning of the conference will not waver, but rather become enhanced as we utilize the distance of this short period of additional time to increase conference registrations, sponsorships, entertainment within the conference site and surrounding Baltimore areas as we aim to set yet another milestone for our premiere event.

As members of one "State" Family, please take comfort that your health and well-being are our top priority. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Kind Regards,

Lateef Saffore, PhD MS

National President, West Virginia State University National Alumni Association

