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February 17, 2021

The Honorable Stanley E. Saylor, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2094

Re: 2021-2022 State Appropriation

Dear Chairman Saylor,

We are grateful to the Commonwealth for the support provided for many years and the CARES funding that the State provided to institutions of higher education to assist with the many needs that arose due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That the State approved a full year of appropriations to the higher education sector last June, added comfort as we worked to manage other budget shortfalls due to the pandemic. Finally, assistance with COVID-19 testing added greatly to other sources of support from the Commonwealth. Thank you.

Appropriations going forward remain a vital aspects of Lincoln University's operating revenue. Our current Appropriation accounts for about 20% of our overall budget. While 1/3 is used to offer tuition discounts for the more than 53% of our students (graduate and undergraduate) from the State of Pennsylvania, 2/3 of the Commonwealth dollars support crucial aspects within our educational enterprise. As the higher education landscape for the coming year is still uncertain, I am asking the Committee to consider my request to increase Lincoln University's level of support to \$17,000,000 an increase of about \$2 million to our base Appropriation as we continue to manage through the economic hardships created by the pandemic.

This is especially important for Lincoln because the remaining 80% of our operating dollars are derived from student tuition and fees. In the best of times, tuition dollars never fully cover the marginal costs associated with offering a high quality education. Tuition revenue versus educational expenditures are further compressed because of Lincoln's tuition freeze policy which maintains a student's tuition at the same level for a four-year period allowing families to better plan for educational expenses. While this has contained costs for our students, unfortunately, costs associated with educational goals and auxiliary functions are outpacing Lincoln's levels of revenue. Moreover, trends nationwide are suggesting that enrollment will decrease or be flat on most campuses around the country next academic year. Accordingly, we are predicting some deficits in our budget relative to previous years. Nonetheless, the cost of offering educational services cannot be decreased proportionately. Hence the need for greater support from the State.

Our greatest need continues to be additional dollars to support increasing the sizes of our faculty and staff so that we may better achieve our educational goals. Nearly half of our students come from families whose yearly income is below \$40,000. Students from these backgrounds possess great potential, but have not had the broad experiences that prepare them to be good consumers of educational opportunities. Lincoln University needs sufficient personnel to help guide these

students along the trajectory of excellence. It is imperative that we garner more resources to further support co-curricular opportunities such as internships, undergraduate research and study abroad. The State Appropriation and Cares Act allotment coupled with the generous support from the Federal government helped Lincoln sustain employment across the University throughout the pandemic which has greatly helped to sustain the economy in our area. We are hopeful that we can continue to grow our ability to support the local economy.

In addition, more state support towards building and sustaining ubiquitous information technology on our campus is greatly needed. Like many institutions of higher learning, Lincoln was faced with the need to implement and devise many technological systems and tools to navigate the changes in the delivery of education brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Dedicated investment from the Commonwealth for this need would guarantee that Lincoln remains current and able to support a stellar living-learning experience for our students.

Lincoln University has been transforming the lives of individuals from vulnerable communities since 1854, more than 10 years before the emancipation of the race. This is a distinction held only by the State of Pennsylvania. We appreciate the funding provided by the Commonwealth and hope that the House of Representatives considers increasing its investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Allen', written in a cursive style.

Brenda A. Allen
President

c: Members, Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee