

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT PRESS CONFERENCE
Incoming President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
May 24, 2012



Good morning.

I will begin by saying I am honored, humbled, and truly feel blessed to be named the 10th President of West Virginia State University.

To the Chairman of the Board, Governor Rowe, Chair of the Search committee, Governors Williams and ThrallsI say "Thank you"!

Governors Smith, Salyers, Lipscomb, Swingle, Guetzloff, Susman, Booker, and Casdorff: I thank each of you for entrusting this fine University to my leadership.

I would also like to thank members of the search committee. Thank you to Chancellor Hill, Chairman Hendrickson, and representatives of the HEPC for your support and commitment to assisting us as we work to propel our beloved West Virginia State to new heights.

Thank you to President Carter for his distinguished service to WVSU for the past 25 years. Each of us in this room has benefited from the dedication and sacrifices he made for State.

I would also like to acknowledge the President of the Foundation, Mr Jim Rowley. I greatly appreciate your support!

To the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members, thank you for your demonstrations of support. From the support of the Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Runhke, and Dr. G, to the five basketball players who told me after the interview, "We have your back Dr. Hemphill," to the cards and e-mails from alumni, I say "Thank you" for your support and the warm welcome to State!

Last but certainly not least, to my wife, my love, my best friend, Marisela,....thank you for your encouragement, love, and support for this new journey in our lives. I would not be here without you! Love you!

I am so optimistic about the future of WVSU. Where some see enrollment challenges, I see significant growth opportunities; where some see fundraising challenges, I see large numbers of prospective donors who don't even know they are prospective donors yet. I see opportunities all across this university! But, I will be the first to tell you that we will not receive the benefits of

these opportunities without a great deal of hard work, fiscal discipline, shared sacrifice and a will to succeed.

As the 10th President of WVSU, I promise each of you that you will get 110 % of my effort, and *together* we will move this university to a heightened level of excellence in academics, research, service and student life—a level in which individuals from legislators to West Virginians all across this state will begin to hear and read about State's academic quality, our points of pride and ultimately the great things that are happening in Institute, WV!

As I close, I must say that, as a State family, we will have successes and failures, but we will succeed and fail together!

Why do I say this? You show me a university that's not thinking outside the box with the possibility of an occasional failure, and I will show you a university that's maintaining. We will not be in the business of maintaining this great state's resources. We will work every day to propel West Virginia State toward greatness.

As I begin this journey as the 10th President of West Virginia State University, I pledge to give you the dedication this university family so richly deserves.

Thank you, and I look forward to meeting each of you.

Go State!