STATE HIGH REUNION
President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D
July 7, 2012

Good Evening! I am honored to greet you on this reunion occasion. It is fitting that this is my first official greeting as President of West Virginia State University because you represent the legacy of the institution's beginning.

I want to acknowledge my beautiful wife Marisela who is here with me tonight, and also thank Reverend Paul F. Willis for his leadership and for the invitation to join you tonight.

"State High," the Teacher Training High School, was an integral part of West Virginia State College. Mrs. Jeffery has made it clear that there would not be a State College without State High! I consider its history as a strong influence in the success of West Virginia State University. I am pleased that you continue to reunite biennially to perpetuate the great history of this University and to reconnect with special members of your class and the State family.

It is my hope to get to know each of you better and to hear about your experiences while in attendance at "State High." I can only imagine the stories you tell on each other each time you meet!

As I learn more of the value you bring to our shared heritage, I want you to know that it is important to me that you share your expectations for strengthening our future together. My door is always open and I would definitely value your feedback.

State's history is rooted in its ability to change and grow to meet the needs of West Virginians and our neighbors across the United States and internationally. As alumni and ambassadors of West Virginia State you will always be part of our success as we continue to pursue bold new initiatives that will ensure the sustainability of our great University.

I trust that you will continue to enjoy this reunion and I look forward to many gatherings with you in the future.