

“W” CLUB HALL OF FAME INDUCTION BRUNCH
President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Oct. 6, 2012



Thank you, Mr. Lipscomb. Good morning! Welcome back to campus! It's great to have so many distinguished alumni here this weekend for the numerous events and programs as we celebrate your beloved alma mater and West Virginia State University Homecoming 2012.

I'd like to take just a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the "W" Club, who work, often behind the scenes, to support athletes and athletics at State. Every year they tirelessly raise money for Athletics, provide and serve food for student athletes, and do nearly anything else asked of them. Let's show the "W" Club members how much we appreciate their generous support.

It is truly an honor for me to pay tribute to those who will be inducted today into the WVSU Sports Hall of Fame:

- Ms. Debra Anderson-Conliff,
- Mr. Craig Carse,
- Mr. Phillip Hill,
- Mr. Tyrone Taylor,
- Mr. Keith Wade, and
- Mr. Phillip Wilson.

Each of you left a significant legacy at State and your induction into the West Virginia State University Sports Hall of Fame will be a fitting tribute. Congratulations!

As we celebrate these heroes of the past, I am very excited to share some news with you that will have a significant impact on the *future* of Yellow Jacket Athletics.

This week, the University received a \$1 million gift from a benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time. \$500,000 of this generous donation will be awarded as scholarships to deserving students studying Business, Computer Science, and Math.

The remaining \$500,000 is the lead gift that will be used to build a new freestanding Athletic Complex on the southwest end of our football stadium. The facility will house locker rooms, showers, coach's offices, a meeting room, and a state-of-the-art weight room. This complex will

benefit all 204 of State's student athletes, due to the advanced physical training equipment the complex will provide. This is truly a game changer for our student athletes!

We will need the help of each of you in this room as we continue to raise funds through this year, in order to break ground in fall 2013.

There are many naming opportunities available in the new WVSU Athletic Complex, from conference rooms and offices, to the weight room and lockers. Opportunities to participate range from \$1,000 to \$300,000—and, of course, any donations are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to continuing to partner with the "W" Club as we take this exciting step toward the future of West Virginia State Athletics.

Thank you and GO STATE!