



A Message  
from the **PRESIDENT**

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

Dear Yellow Jacket Nation and Friends:

I write to share exciting news as we move toward the final step for implementing our Nursing Program. With our approvals from the Board of Governors and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC); earlier this week, we received approval from our accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

Many thanks to the leadership, Provost Kumara Jayasuriya, Dean Paige Carney, Vice President Patricia Schumann, Chief of Staff DeNeia Thomas, and the members of our Nursing Advisory Council; Dr. Kathy Harper, Ms. Lindsey Good, Ms. Jameelah Means, Mr. Dayton Wilson, Interim Vice President Kristi Williams, and Dr. Aaron Settle; and other faculty and staff involved with planning the HLC site visit this past March. Also, I am appreciative of our dedicated Board of Governors, alumni, community partners, elected officials and friends of the University. Your engagement was invaluable throughout the entire process for the implementation of our first Nursing Program.

The Nursing Program will be located within the College of Professional Studies. The success of our program will require a knowledgeable leader who has mastered the field of nursing and health care. That leader is our Director of Nursing, Dr. Mary Sizemore. Dr. Sizemore's experience and expertise will add value to our program. Under her leadership, our University is well poised to prepare the next generation of nurses to meet a critical need in the Kanawha Valley and State of West Virginia.

With HLC approval, we now move to the final step in this process for approval from the West Virginia Board of Nursing, which we will do this fall. We anticipate the implementation of our first Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program by fall 2020.

Best Regards,

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.  
President

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