



A Message
from the **PRESIDENT**

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.



Dear Yellow Jacket Nation:

Today is a sad day for West Virginia State University, the entire Yellow Jacket Nation, and our country as we mourn the loss of one of our greatest alumnae, Katherine Johnson. From the time she first set foot on our campus to her days as a leading NASA mathematician, Katherine was always learning, inspiring and transforming every environment she entered. Her accomplishments, at a time in America when the doors of opportunity were not always open to African Americans, are nothing short of remarkable, just like the woman she was. The calculations that Katherine Johnson performed for NASA were pivotal to America winning the space race, and she will forever be an important cornerstone of American history. But beyond her great accomplishments at NASA, Katherine was a great mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend and person. These are the attributes that will best define her legacy.

I am so grateful that Katherine was able to return to campus in 2018 to celebrate her 100th birthday as we dedicated, in her honor, the Katherine Johnson Plaza, which showcases a statue that will continue to inspire our students to dream bigger for years to come. The thoughts and prayers of the Yellow Jacket Nation are extended to her daughters and the entire Johnson family at this time of grief.

Best regards,

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

President

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