

December 21, 2018

Dear _____

I am a supporter of Bennett College, an esteemed HBCU in Greensboro, North Carolina, that was founded in 1873 and became a college for women in 1926.

It has been easy to lend support to Bennett over the years because the Institution has a rich legacy of producing outstanding African-American women who become leaders in various fields throughout the state, the nation and the world. For example, the Deputy Minority Leader in the North Carolina Legislature is a Bennett graduate. So are the first African-American mayor in the city of Greensboro, the first woman and first African-American to serve as director of the U.S. Peace Corps, the first African-American District Attorney in North Carolina and the first African-American woman licensed surgeon in the south. In addition, the first African-American woman to become president of a four-year institution was Dr. Willa B. Player, who served as Bennett's President from 1955 to 1966.

As you may be aware from recent press accounts, Bennett College is in jeopardy of closing its doors for good if administrators don't raise a minimum of \$5 million by Feb. 1, 2019. The money is needed to demonstrate to officials with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that Bennett is financially solvent. I'll be blunt: We cannot let Bennett College close! We cannot let a historic, 145-year-old institution cease to exist. We cannot tell the hundreds of young women who desire to earn their undergraduate degrees from Bennett that they must choose another school from which to graduate. I am willing to do what I can to ensure Bennett's doors remain open, to ensure Bennett's future. Will you, your business or organization join me?

There are several ways you can donate to Bennett:

- Go to www.bennett.edu/donate and give online
- Text the word Belles to the number 444999 and follow the instructions
- Mail a check to the College's Office of Institutional Advancement at 900 East Washington St., Greensboro, N.C. 27401

During this season of giving, please invest in Bennett College to help preserve her legacy and ensure that it continues serving as a beacon of hope for young women for generations and generations to come. Please join me now in financial support of Bennett!

If you have any questions, please contact Bennett's Office of Institutional Advancement at 336.517.2248. Please #StandwithBennett, which desperately needs your financial contributions – as well as your good thoughts and positive messages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram – now more than ever.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

_____, a Bennett College supporter

Cc: Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, Ph.D., President; LaDaniel Gatling, II, Vice President for Institutional Advancement