

December 19, 2018

Dear _____

As you know, I am a proud alumna of Bennett College, an esteemed institution in Greensboro, North Carolina, that was founded in 1873 and became the first all-women's HBCU in the country in 1926. Spelman College in Atlanta is the country's only other all-women's Historically Black College.

You may not be aware of Bennett's rich legacy of producing outstanding African-American women who become leaders in various fields throughout the state, the nation and the world. The Deputy Minority Leader in the North Carolina Legislature is a Bennett Belle. The first African-American mayor in the city of Greensboro is a Bennett graduate. The first woman and first African-American to serve as director of the U.S. Peace Corps is a Belle. The first African-American District Attorney in North Carolina is a Bennett graduate. The first African-American woman licensed surgeon in the south is a Belle. Moreover, 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.

I could go on about Bennett's history, but I won't. Instead, I will tell you that I will be heartbroken if my Institution has to close its doors. I and my fellow Bennett alumnae will be devastated if we can no longer return to Greensboro for Alumnae Weekend to take nostalgic walks down memory lane while revisiting the Institution that is so dear to our hearts, the Institution that laid the groundwork for us to become analytical leaders and effective communicators. If Bennett College closes, I cannot tell you of the negative impact that will have on future generations of young women of color.

Please help me raise money to keep my alma mater's doors open. During the 2018 fiscal year, Bennett alumnae donated \$2.2 million in gifts and pledges to our Institution. Please join us in donating to Bennett College today. Likewise, please ask your family members, friends, co-workers and church members to donate, too. While I'm sure Bennett administrators would like for you to give as much as you can, the important thing is that you give and you give now, **as Bennett must raise a minimum of \$5 million by Feb. 1**. I hope that Gwendolyn Mackel Rice, President of the Bennett College National Alumnae Association, and I can count on you to help Bennett raise a minimum of \$5 million. You may donate the following ways:

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

If you have any questions, please contact Bennett College's Office of Institutional Advancement at 336.517.2248. Please #StandwithBennett. We need your financial contributions – and your prayers and positive messages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram – now more than ever. Thank you, Happy Holidays and God bless you.

Sincerely,

_____, a very proud Bennett College Alumna

Cc: Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, Ph.D., President; LaDaniel Gatling, II, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Audrey Demps Franklin '72, Executive Director of Alumnae Relations