



Bennett College

900 E. WASHINGTON STREET, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27401

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 25, 2024

Dear Bennett College Alumna,

This year marks a momentous occasion – Bennett College's 150th anniversary! For a century and a half, this institution has empowered and transformed the lives of countless graduates, producing phenomenal women and global scholars. Thank you for the dedication and support you've shown throughout the years, as a student and as an alum. A vibrant alumnae community will be essential to the success and sustainability of Bennett for many decades to come.

Bennett College leadership and the Board of Trustees invite you to join us on an exciting journey to revolutionize alumnae engagement! We recognize the need for a dynamic and inclusive strategy – one that bridges generations, fosters meaningful connections, and fuels your personal and professional growth.

Imagine a future where:

- **Sisterhood continues to thrive nationally, globally, and intergenerationally:** Through signature events, on campus during Founders Weekend and Reunion Weekend, and tailored programming throughout the year wherever Belles are, we'll cultivate a strong sense of community, where relationships transcend graduation and friendships bloom anew.
- **Networks empower:** We'll create intentional spaces for networking, mentorship, and resource sharing to fuel your success.
- **Lifelong learning beckons:** Opportunities to enhance your personal and professional development will be offered, ensuring Bennett College remains a pillar for your lifelong learning.
- **Giving back inspires:** We'll make it easier than ever to support your Alma Mater financially and make connections with the next generation of remarkable women, our current Belles.
- **Communication connects:** Updated consistent channels of communication will keep you informed and engaged.
- **Together we grow:** You'll play a vital role in shaping and recruiting future generations of strong, empowered Black women and other women of color.

The transformative future of our alumnae engagement is guided by CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) emerging best practices and invaluable insights from alumnae. [[Working Group report](#)] After listening and working sessions with active alumnae and incorporating their feedback, we are taking the next steps:

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- **Redesigning our Structure:** We are launching the Bennett College Advisory Council on Alumnae Engagement (the “Advisory Council”). The Bennett College Board of Trustees has approved the Advisory Council model. The Advisory Council will be a non-governing, non-fiduciary body, will be the *only* College-sanctioned organization working in conjunction with Bennett College Alumnae Engagement to support all alumnae, and will not require any membership dues. As a result of these changes, the Bennett College National Alumnae Association will not have any formal or informal affiliation with the College.
- **Elevating Chapters:** Chapters have historically been the heart of the Bennett College alumnae engagement and we are excited to continue to directly support and elevate the work of the Chapters. Under the new structure, chapters will hear from and work directly with the College. To kick off this closer relationship, we will do a roll call of all of our chapters worldwide to increase visibility and provide an opportunity to recruit new members. Register your Chapter [here](#).
- **Introducing Affinity Groups:** Beyond geography or graduation year, we understand that there is a desire for alumnae to connect based on industries, interests, and other meaningful shared characteristics or life experiences. You now have a chance to create those groups. Share your ideas for an affinity group [here](#).

This is your journey too! We can't wait for you to be part of it. Here's how you can get involved immediately:

- **Stay in Touch and Update Your Information** [here](#): Let us know what you're up to! Update your contact information so we can keep you in the loop.
- **Nominate Yourself or a Sister for the Advisory Council** [here](#)
- **Register Your Chapter** [here](#): Make sure we have the name of your Chapter and the contact info for the President.
- **Start an Affinity Group:** Share your ideas for an affinity group [here](#).
- **Register for Reunion Weekend On Campus** [here](#): Join me May 16-18, 2024 for a weekend of exciting on-campus events to celebrate sisterhood and the legacies of our Bennett Belles. Early bird registration is \$55 until April 12 and is \$75 after.
- **"Ring the Bell for Bennett" on our Day of Giving on April 2:** Funds raised through Day of Giving support the College and the next generation of Bennett Belles. Interested in volunteering as an official "Bell Ringer Ambassador" for the day? Visit <https://DayofGiving.Bennett.edu> and click "Ambassadors" at the top to register!
- **Attend Our Webinar:** Join me on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 8p Eastern for a special webinar where we'll dive deeper into this transformative future. Register [here](#).

As an alumna, you are equally important to the HERstory of Bennett College as well as the future of Bennett College. We are so excited to create this new future together.

Warmly,



Suzanne Elise Walsh, JD
President

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