Dear Yellow Jacket Nation:

Happy New Year, and welcome to the start of the spring 2020 semester! If you are new to STATE, thank you for allowing us to help you reach your educational and professional goals. For those returning, we are pleased that you have returned to continue learning and working together. As always, I encourage you to actively pursue the broadest and most rewarding experience ever, and that starts by getting involved.

This promises to be an exciting spring at STATE! On February 5, 2020, we will host our annual Board of Governor's Roundtable forums in the Erickson Alumni Center. The following are the times for each group; faculty is 4:00-4:50 p.m., the staff is from 5:00-5:50 p.m. and the forum for students is 6:00-6:50 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty and staff to share your insight and recommendations to continue to make STATE great.

I am most excited to share the news about the film screening of "River of Hope" scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the Ferrell Hall Auditorium. The film presents an impressive depiction of the founding of West Virginia State University and is directed by our very own alumnus.

Join us for WVSU Day at the Capitol on February 21. WVSU Day is an awesome platform to highlight our outstanding programs and engage with legislators and other government leaders. This annual event is an opportunity for the Yellow Jacket Nation to swarm the statehouse and share the story of West Virginia State University.

We are preparing for our Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation visit on April 6-7. A town hall meeting is planned on January 23, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Erickson Alumni Center. Participants are invited to learn about University accreditation and the campus HLC visit.

As we enter the winter season, it is important for the campus community to stay connected and up-to-date on University and weather related matters. Therefore, I am asking you to stay connected through the following University social media platforms and receive important alerts and information: the website, Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Athletics, and President Jenkins. Please take a moment to ensure your MyState contact information is accurate and up-to-date.

This promises to be an exciting spring at STATE! I look forward to seeing you in the dining hall, in classes, cheering our teams to victory and around campus. Show your Yellow Jacket Nation Pride and wear your black and gold, especially for WVSU Day every Friday. I wish each of you a successful spring semester.

Go STATE!

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.