

Bethune-Cookman College

Daytona Beach, Florida

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE, PRESIDENT
ATTY. THOMAS T. COBB, CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD
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December 31, 1942

My dear Friend:

For thirty-eight years I have given untiringly of myself, with the fine, loyal cooperation of the faculty and students who have worked with me during the years, in the building of Bethune-Cookman College - a beautiful Christian Institution on the East Coast of Florida. This school stands as a beacon light for the thousands who are yet to pass this way.

We are bringing to you now our gratitude for your confidence and help during these years and assure you again that the investments you have made have paid high dividends in the lives of our young people who are rendering service throughout the state and nation. This task has not been an easy one, but a glorious opportunity for service.

Because of the exacting demands upon my strength during the years, I felt that the time had come for a younger, more vigorous leader to direct the work of Bethune-Cookman College - to meet the new and ever-changing phases of our educational system in this war-torn world. I felt that I could not stand in the way of the advancement of the College. With gratitude to God for the opportunity of service which had been mine for so long and for the realization of my dream, on December 15, 1942 I requested of my Trustee Board a retirement as President of this Institution and asked for the appointment of Mr. James A. Colston, a well-trained, forward-looking young man, as President. Mr. Colston is a graduate of Morehouse College and holds his Master's degree from Atlanta University. He has ten successful years of experience as an educator, five of which have been given to service as Director of Ballard School, Macon, Georgia. Mr. Colston has splendid educational background, administrative experience, creative ability and a vision of conscientious service. He served for two summer sessions as Consultant for the Curriculum workshop of Atlanta University Summer School, and as Director of the Hampton Institute Summer School in Jacksonville, in 1942..

My retirement as President does not, in any measure, indicate any lessening of my interest in, and influence for the College. I therefore call upon you, my friends, to extend to Mr. Colston the same confidence, cooperation and help that you have given to me during the years. During this strategic period I earnestly request of you a double portion of interest in our program, for we find our financial situation to be at a low ebb. I am most anxious, as I turn over the responsibilities of President to Mr. Colston, to have him begin his work without the handicap of an operating deficit. A threatened deficit can be avoided if all of our friends will contribute to the work now as they have done in former years, knowing that we will gratefully receive donations of any size to help meet the current emergency.

May the New Year bring to you the blessings of good health and prosperity, and to our country victory and peace.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McLeod Bethune

Mary McLeod Bethune, President-Emeritus.