

Dear Talladega College Family,

When times are tough, Talladegans rise up. This tradition began over 150 years ago, when William Savery and Thomas Tarrant rose up from slavery and established Talladega College. We continue rising up to meet challenges, overcome obstacles and help find solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Throughout the years, Talladega has overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges. There were seasons when enrollment, which is now at a record high, was so low that our doors almost closed. Yet we rose up Dega Strong and Dega Proud.

Today, we face an unprecedented obstacle - the coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 has overwhelmed cities throughout our nation and the world. Lives have been upended and many businesses have folded. Talladega could have crumbled under the weight of this tragic outbreak. Instead, we have continued to rise up Dega Strong and Dega Proud. Last month, students, faculty and staff moved swiftly and decisively to help the College successfully transition to online classes and other forms of remote learning. Remote tutoring has been put in place to facilitate this transition, and we continue to explore new ways to support students during these trying times.

As we work diligently from our homes, we must all continue to be vigilant, practicing social distancing; washing our hands frequently; wearing face masks when we go out; and making other adjustments to protect our health and the health of our family, friends and community members. Throughout this challenging season, students must continue to aim high and maintain academic excellence. Faculty and staff must work diligently to support our students, and alumni are encouraged to assist students by contributing to the Student Care Emergency Relief Fund.

Talladega College is paying close attention as authorities monitor the spread of the virus and prepare to make decisions about the eventual reopening of businesses and schools. We will continue to update you on plans for Alumni Weekend, August 14 - 16, 2020, and Commencement, August 16, 2020.

We eagerly anticipate the day when we can bring our full community together again.

Sincerely,

Billy C. Hawkins, Ph.D.
President