

Good morning Chairman Bruce, President Allen, Trustees, and LU Community:

I was going to say that I was excited to be here IN PERSON AT A BOARD MEETING. But due to the weather, the AALU pivoted and shifted all activities to virtual today. I bring you greetings on behalf of Lincoln Alumni everywhere to share about the People, Power, and Participation – the 3 Ps that are the ingredients to our success.

1st, People

- The AALU held our 4th annual New Year's Prayer Service on the first Sunday of January organized by our Chaplain Mike Canty '91 and Program Committee Chair, Sandra Marigna Harmon '81. This event has evolved into a reliable and spirit-filled way to bring in the new year with our hearts and minds focused on our PEOPLE – our LU Family. We continued our tradition of honoring the memory of our many deceased Fallen Lions and produced a video to honor the many Lions who passed on. If you missed it, we will share on social media platforms soon.
- And speaking of PEOPLE...
 - LU Alums everywhere are all set to descend IN PERSON on Baltimore in 3 weeks to party with a purpose. The purpose, OF COURSE, being to support our Men's and Women's Basketball Teams as they go for the CIAA championship. The Baltimore Metro Chapter (BMC), led by Trustee Lorella Dicks '80 and her team are working hand-in-hand with University leaders to pull off some great events. And, the AALU is doing our part!
 - My living room is overflowing with boxes of LU CHEER items to be donated by the Alumni Association to LU fans to hype our teams. We partnered with the 1st Club to score hundreds of extra Pom Poms, and we have coordinated with Harry Stinson to lead our fans on color themes for each days' games:
 - Thursday - ORANGE
 - Friday - We'll be having a WHITE OUT
 - And, Saturday - BLUE
 - And you only have TWO MORE DAYS to support our tee shirt fundraiser where you can buy your Orange and White shirts now. Visit our store at AALUPA.org/store2025
 - **Also on our website, we have links to many of the CIAA events**
 - **On Thursday**, we will kick off community service in Baltimore with alumni reading visits to local elementary schools with our annual Advancing the Lincoln Legacy through Literacy
 - BMC and the DCMAC Chapter will be hosting a welcome reception
 - **Friday**, the National AALU will host a Lincoln Link-up Happy Hour...with over 100 alums already registered, it will be the perfect time to share ways in which alums can form deeper linkages with LU
 - And afterwards, many of us will kick back with smooth Jazz, while young alums will put on their party shoes and dance it out

- **Saturday**, we are claiming it – we will be celebrating two big Championship wins at the annual Lincoln Party Jam.
- There will be vendors, hospitality, multiple Tequila tastings, and just plain old hanging out, connecting with PEOPLE, and having a great LU time

Power - The 2nd P is Power, which is about money...

- Our 5th annual Golf Tournament **Monday, July 21, 2025**.
- Honorary Co-Chair, legendary African American golfer **Jim Thorpe** plans a repeat performance this year, and Charles Latta '81 and his team are working hard. This year they have moved us to a NEW LOCATION: Deerfield Golf Course, Newark, DE.
- Please do 3 things to help us this year:
 - 1. **Register** - Early Bird Registration is extended through CIAA
 - 2. **Donate** - this is our signature event, and for the past 4 years we have moved into one of the top 10 LU donors. There's power in our collective.
 - 3. **Tell a friend - WE NEED SPONSORS**. If you can sponsor or share just one lead with us, we'd be so grateful.

Finally, the third P is **Participation**

- On Wednesday, January 22, we made a significant step to advance and enhance the effectiveness of alumni participation. The AALU president, me, the incoming president, Eric Becoats, and the Chair of a special committee, Dr. Jonathan Brown, visited campus for an all-day session with Lincoln administrators to initiate discussions about creating a **memorandum of understanding** between the University and the Alumni Association. This is a project that has been decades in the making.
- Hosted by Alumni Relations, Deborah Johnson, we met with Dr. Colvin, Harry Stinson, Venus Boston, Maya Mapp and others to listen to Lincoln's latest strategic plan updates and ideate on how the alumni could support the University in achieving these goals. Trustees Lancaster and Dicks also participated on Zoom. By the end of the day, we had all increased bonds, enhanced our understanding of one another, and learned a few new things. We are on track to continue working around a discussion draft as soon as next week, and we can't wait to present something to Dr. Allen and Venus Boston for their consideration. I can guarantee that it was a moving experience for all, and we walked away excited with new ideas for a framework for our service and participation. I know it will profoundly impact our shared future to advance the Lincoln Legacy.
- And finally, later today, the AALU will hold its candidates forum where we will hear from all of the **candidates in our upcoming AALU election**. To see their names and bios, I invite you to visit our website, <http://aalupa.org/2025election>. I publicly thank them for stepping up to PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS. While we had hoped to be in the Student Union Building, please join us after this meeting
["https://aalupa.org/event-5993857"](https://aalupa.org/event-5993857)

So, I'll stop there. I will ask Adriona to forward you all an email on my behalf with some important links. And please continue to reflect on LU People, Power, and Participation. I will see you virtually at 1pm, and in person at CIAA!

AALUPA.org/store2025

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