

TO: PA Gov's Secretary of Leg. Affairs Will Danowski < wdanowski@pa.gov >; State Senator Andy Dinniman< andy@pasenate.com >; Mr. Noe Ortega < nortega@pa.gov >; Senator Vincent Hughes<hughes@pasenate.com>; State Representative John A. Lawrence <jlawrenc@pahousegop.com >; Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera <parivera@pa.gov>; Dr. Jon Peri <ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov>; State Representative Stephen Kinsey < RepKinsey@pahouse.net >;

CC: < spprt.drallen.renew2020@gmail.com >

SUBJECT:

Commonwealth Officials,

My name is [INSERT NAME]. I am an alum of Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

My purpose for contacting each of you today is two-fold:

1. As a stakeholder at Lincoln University, one of four state-related institutions that receive Pennsylvania taxpayer dollars, I am expressing deep concern relating to the possibility of the contract of Lincoln University's President not being renewed by Lincoln's Board of Trustees.
2. I am formally requesting that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with consultation from a qualified group of Lincoln Alumni, fill it's remaining allocated open seats on Lincoln's Board of Trustees to ensure sound governance of the institution.

In Dr. Brenda Allen's short, 3-year tenure at Lincoln University as President, her administration has achieved several significant accomplishments, which include the following:

- In 2019, Lincoln University successfully navigated a thorough and intensive Middle States review, which resulted in Lincoln's accreditation being reaffirmed, with commendations.
- The retention rate for first-year students has risen from 68% to 71% and the second-year retention rate has grown from 57.8% to 65.2%.
- Alumni giving has increased by 34% and the number of individual donors has nearly doubled.
- Lincoln University is now ranked, for the first time, among the top 40 Northern Public institutions of the United States.
- In 2020, U.S. News Report ranked Lincoln University the 19th Best HBCU in the country, a significant jump from rankings from previous years.

In recent weeks, the National Alumni Association of Lincoln University, Student Government Association of Lincoln University, and Lincoln University's faculty have each published letters of support for Dr. Allen, requesting that the Board of Trustees retain her as University President. In the midst of a global pandemic, continuity of leadership is critical for Lincoln University to navigate this significantly challenging time in Higher Education.

This debacle around the renewal of Dr. Allen's contract is yet another example of questionable actions taken by the Board of Trustees which work to inhibit needed progress, growth, and unity within the university community. A critical step that must be taken to improve the Board's overall performance and ability to govern effectively is for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to fill its remaining open seats with well-able trustees who can help guide Lincoln University forward by providing quality leadership from a board level.

At a time such as this, where a heightened awareness of racial disparities and injustice as it relates to systemic racism is at its peak, the mission and impact of Lincoln University on the Commonwealth have never been more crucial. I implore each of you as elected officials to do right by the constituents who elected you by ensuring that the state works with us as alumni to fill these vacant seats.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME HERE]

[INSERT NAME HERE]

[INSERT ADDITION CLASS or OTHER INFORMATION HERE]

[INSERT PHONE NUMBER HERE]