



Lincoln University
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February 15, 2022

The Honorable Stanley E. Saylor, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2094

Re: 2022-2023 State Appropriation

Dear Chairman Saylor,

When I came before you last year to provide testimony in support of Lincoln University's 2021-2022 Appropriation Request, the nation and the state were still in the midst of trying to manage the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As I come before you this year, we are still confronted with the effects and consequences of COVID-19. I want to thank the Commonwealth for the support you have provided over the years and, more recently, the CARES funding provided to institutions of higher education to assist with the many needs that have materialized due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you.

Appropriations going forward remain a vital aspect of Lincoln University's operating revenue. Our current Appropriation accounts for about 20% of our overall budget. While 1/3 is used to offer tuition discounts for the more than 53% of our students (graduate and undergraduate) from the State of Pennsylvania, 2/3 of the Commonwealth dollars support crucial aspects within our educational enterprise. As the higher education landscape continues to evolve and change, I am again asking the Committee to consider my request to increase Lincoln University's level of support to \$17,000,000 an increase of about \$2 million to our base Appropriation as we continue to manage through the economic hardships created by the pandemic.

This is especially important for Lincoln because another 70% of our operating dollars are derived from student tuition and fees. In the best of times, tuition dollars never fully cover the marginal costs associated with offering a high quality education. Tuition revenue versus educational expenditures are further compressed because of Lincoln's tuition freeze policy which maintains a student's tuition at the same level for a four-year period allowing families to better plan for educational expenses. While this has contained costs for our students, costs associated with educational goals and auxiliary functions are outpacing Lincoln's levels of revenue. Moreover, like others across the nation, Lincoln has been affected by a record number of resignations among high level staff. Competition for qualified personnel is intense and will require competitive salaries to bring on staff with skills and expertise necessary to sustain a quality educational experience for our students. Additionally, we are predicting some deficits in our budget due to the decrease in student enrollment due of the continuing effects of the pandemic on our students and their families. Nonetheless, the cost of offering educational services cannot be decreased proportionately. Hence the need for greater support from the State.

Our greatest need continues to be additional dollars to support increasing the sizes of our faculty and staff so that we may better achieve our educational goals. Nearly half of our students come from families whose yearly income is below \$40,000. Students from these backgrounds possess great potential, but have not had the broad experiences that prepare them to be good consumers of educational opportunities. Lincoln University needs sufficient personnel to help guide these students along the trajectory of excellence. It is imperative that we garner more resources to further support co-curricular opportunities such as internships, undergraduate research and study abroad. The State Appropriation coupled with the generous support from the Federal government helped Lincoln sustain employment across the University throughout the pandemic, which has greatly helped to sustain the economy in our area. We are hopeful that we can continue to maintain our ability to support the local economy.

In addition, more state support towards building and sustaining ubiquitous information technology on our campus is greatly needed. Like many institutions of higher learning, Lincoln was faced with the need to implement and devise many technological systems and tools to navigate the changes in the delivery of education brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. While we have made strides to provide up-to-date technology tools, there are many upgrades that remain out of our financial reach. Dedicated investment from the Commonwealth for this need would guarantee that Lincoln remains current and able to support a stellar living-learning experience for our students.

Lincoln University has been transforming the lives of individuals from vulnerable communities since 1854, more than 10 years before the emancipation of the race. This is a distinction held only by the State of Pennsylvania. We appreciate the funding provided by the Commonwealth and hope that the House of Representatives considers increasing its investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Allen', written in a cursive style.

Brenda A. Allen
President

c: Members, House Appropriations Committee

2022-2023 Budget Request

\$17,000,000

The State Appropriation helps Lincoln University keep its tuition and fees competitive, thereby reducing barriers to access and opportunity. Moreover, this fund helps to support several aspects that directly impact the quality of education offered by the institution.

The funding will help Lincoln to:

- Provide tuition and fee support in the form of tuition discounts and scholarships. \$9,000,000
- Increase faculty size to support increased enrollments (20 new positions). \$2,000,000
- Increase Academic and Student Support Staff (8 new positions). \$ 500,000
- Increase funding for Co-Curricular Opportunities (Internships, Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad -- 100 additional opportunities). \$ 600,000
- Increase funding to support faculty development specifically in areas of teaching related to 21st century skill development. \$2,000,000
- Provide support for other faculty development opportunities towards increasing excellence as teach/scholars. \$ 500,000
- Modernize the network infrastructure (complete campus network wiring and switch upgrades in buildings; complete VoIP phone system upgrade from old analog PBX; acquire technology consulting/staffing to support new technologies, particularly important during the new delivery methods of education required due to Covid-19; complete the installation of wireless capability for entire campus. \$1,000,000
- Support progress towards the replacement and upgrading of the academic/administrative software systems. \$ 500,000
- Deploy upgraded modern computer systems and software for our students to increase their preparedness and competitiveness in a highly technology driven 21st century. \$ 500,000
- Provide upgraded and modernized computer systems and software for our faculty and also provide increased professional development opportunities utilizing modern technologies. \$ 400,000

**Lincoln University
of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education
2022-2023 Operational Budget Request**

**HISTORY OF COMMONWEALTH FUNDING
2016 – 2021**

	Actual 2018-2019	Actual 2019-2020	Actual 2020-2021	Actual 2021-2022	Requested 2022-2023
Commonwealth Appropriation	14,869,000	15,166,000	15,166,000	15,166,000	17,000,000

For Lincoln University’s 2022-2023 Operating Budget Request, we are requesting \$17,000,000 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to continue providing a positive educational environment as we seek to Advance Lincoln University’s Legacy of Excellence. This represents a \$1.8 million increase to our base appropriation, an additional investment that will help to support our campus and our state.