



**DR. CHERYL EVANS JONES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**



**Students, Faculty, Staff, Administrators,
Parents, and Friends:**

April 27, 2020

I am sure that you have been monitoring the College throughout the course of our adjusting to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Specifically, the College is open while our students are completing the spring semester through remote instruction with faculty. Staff, except for essential services, are working from home. The College has complied with the Governor in the “shelter in place” order. Precautions are still being taken at the College as the Governor has moved to slowly re-open the state.

As an update, remote instruction has been going well and we have learned a lot in the process including some very interesting information. For example, faculty have reported that student attendance is better for remote instruction using Zoom than when students were receiving face-to-face instruction. We have also learned that we must do a better job with our students to enhance their success as they engage in virtual or remote instruction. We thank you for assisting us with this adjustment and for your patience and cooperation.

Now, I am coming to you to share the latest news about the College. On Thursday, April 16, the College received notice that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit found no procedural errors that would violate Paine College’s Due Process rights. To summarize, this means that the case is being returned to the trial court which has upheld the revocation of our Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accreditation. As you have probably seen in the media, the Paine College Board of Trustees and the College’s attorneys are reviewing the Eleventh Circuit of Appeals ruling and continue to weigh the College’s appellate options.

Having attempted to brief you about the College, I would like to ensure that you are aware of several very important matters.

THE COLLEGE REMAINS ACCREDITED

1. The College remains accredited at this time by SACSCOC and the College is a member, as a candidate institution, with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). For you, the students and parents this means that you will continue to be eligible to receive financial aid and to be eligible for Title IV support.

2020 COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

2. The College is already making plans to hold the May graduation in December due to the concerns and uncertainty of the Coronavirus situation. The Baccalaureate service will be held on Saturday, December 5th and Commencement will be held on Sunday, December 6th.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND FALL 2020 SEMESTER

3. Plans are well underway to hold both, summer school and the fall 2020 semester, as either face-to-face delivery or to continue with remote instruction. To accommodate the remote instruction, our technology infrastructure is being enhanced; faculty development is being provided to strengthen faculty remote instruction skills and strategies; and efforts are being made to ensure that all students have the technology and the access to participate in virtual /remote instruction.

STANDARDIZED TESTS WAIVED

4. Since schools are closed and students are not able to take the standardized tests such as the ACT or SAT, Paine College is waiving the standardized test requirement for all first-time students (applicants) with a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher. However, we are admitting all students who qualify without requiring the standardized test score for admission purposes. These applicants will be admitted under the condition that they will take the ACT RESIDUAL TEST upon enrollment.

PC INITIATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

5. Finally, the College has created an Initiative Scholarship to provide an incentive to all returning students with a 2.1 GPA or higher to support their return to Paine College after having endured the many adjustments during the spring semester. This is just another way of saying “thank you”. These initiative scholarships are on a first come, first served, qualifications met basis. [\[Click Application\]](#)

IN CONCLUSION

As President of Paine College, I promise to keep you informed as we face this very critical time in the history of Paine College together. On behalf of the entire Paine College family and its Board of Trustees, we sincerely thank you for you being the wonderful and committed students that you are, entrusting your loved ones to us, for the service you provide to the College, for being devoted and supportive alumni. Most of all, we thank you for your patience, commitment, and support of this institution.

I look forward to seeing each of you in person soon. Continue to stay safe.

Best regards,
Cheryl Evans Jones, Ph.D., President