

A Message from the President



It is a remarkable time at Tougaloo! Over the past week, my senior team and I have been engaged in Zoom conversations with educational administrators about best practices for meeting the needs of students during this pandemic. I, too, have joined The College Fund/UNCF and HBCU presidents on several panels discussing the impact of COVID-19 on our institutions and funding opportunities to ensure we are able to support newly entering and currently enrolled students when they return to our campuses, virtually or face-to-face. Over the summer, I look forward to welcoming first-year students attending virtual orientations and meeting with the Student Government Association President-elect, Mr. Amon Haynes, to hear his vision, goals, objectives, and plans for the fall.

Tougaloo is blessed to have people, traditions and legacies that have made it the outstanding institution it is today. Just this past week, I received a telephone call from Vice President for Institutional Advancement Sandra Hodge informing me about a major gift received from the Renner Family Foundation started by Dr. R. Richard Renner and Mrs. Jennie Steindorf Renner, who was a former member of the Tougaloo College Board of Trustees. The Foundation's gift of \$200,000 will establish the Jennie Steindorf Renner Endowment to provide internship stipends for students. For the Renners, giving has been a central family value that has spanned over seven decades. The support of generous donors impacts the lives of our students and helps to prepare them for a life of leadership and service.

Mrs. Renner's service on the Board of Trustees (1961-1970) spanned the tenure of two presidents: Dr. Adam D. Beittel (1960-1964) and Dr. George A. Owens (1964-1984). For her leadership, service and dedication to the College, in April 1975 the Board of Trustees recognized her tenure with naming a residence hall constructed in 1972 in her honor. The Renner Family Foundation donated \$100,000 toward the construction of Renner Hall.

What a wonderful legacy to continue! I sincerely appreciate the loyalty and dedication of the current and former trustees whose leadership and support of the College have resulted in life-changing opportunities for students. The Renner Family Foundation's gift creates momentum to the College's efforts to bring more attention to the increased need for dollars that provide scholarships, internships and other learning opportunities for students. We welcome you to join the Renner Family Foundation in creating or continuing your legacy. Contact the Office of Institutional Advancement to give a gift, large or small, today or before June 30th.

It is with great pride and gratitude that I thank every member of this college community and our extended community of alumni and friends for your extraordinary commitment and unwavering support that have enabled us to continue our shared work of learning and growth as we build a stronger Tougaloo College.

Preserving and Advancing Excellence, we are Tougaloo!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Walters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Carmen J. Walters, Ph.D.