



## DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

September 4, 2019

To the University community,

Tomorrow, Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, I will celebrate my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I have chosen this date to publicly announce my intention to retire as the 11<sup>th</sup> President of Delaware State University on December 31, 2019. While it has been an absolute honor and privilege for me to serve this great Institution, I also know that it is equally a blessing just to be able to retire, which I have now been able to do twice. The first time was in 2010, and for this, I am truly grateful!

Having grown up with parents and an entire community who valued faith, family, education, and service above all else, I look back today on my life's journey as a continuous effort to live up to those values and high ideals. These guiding principles have served me well.

I have been blessed with exceptional children and grandchildren; wonderful siblings and family members; supportive Delta and Link sisters; and a loving church family. A truly global community of good friends, colleagues, and associates has surrounded me from every corner of my life. As Psalm 143:8 reads, "You are loved more than you will ever know." Likewise, I have loved deeply in return.

As a child I grew up on this campus, while my father, Dr. Luna Mishoe, served as the 7<sup>th</sup> President of Delaware State College. There was something special about growing up surrounded by eager students headed off to class each day, and listening to the faculty and administrators guiding them.

That experience led me into my life's work: 44 years in higher education. My career started at Wilmington College (now University); continued at Delaware Technical Community College; followed a parallel path as President of the Capital School District Board of Education; and led me to Wilberforce University, as a member of its Board of Trustees, and later as interim President.

Shortly afterwards, I had the opportunity to return home to Dover, and proudly accepted an unexpected invitation to join the Delaware State University Board of Trustees. Within two years I became the Board's first female chairperson, and ultimately, was asked to be the first female President of the same university where my father once held the helm.

To be President, headquartered on the campus where I grew up, was not a possibility that I had ever thought of, but it has been both an enormous honor and a true privilege.

Please know that I am far from done. When I retire from the Presidency of this great University, I know I will go to new adventures, confident that the Institution is in good hands. My heart will always reside on this campus, and my hands will be here whenever needed. To all those administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, community and University supporters, I say, "I love you; I believe in you; and I thank you!"

Delaware State University has consistently fulfilled its mission of providing access and opportunity, not only to our students, but also to those of us laboring here throughout the years. I consider each of you a part of my extended family, and together, we will forever be THE Delaware State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilma Mishoe".

Dr. Wilma Mishoe  
President