

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 22, 2008

Dear Members of the Howard University Community:

As we reach the conclusion of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year, I want to extend my congratulations to all members of the university community – students, faculty, staff, and alumni – on the successes we have realized individually and as a university. We can point to such highlights as:

- Howard being nationally ranked by the National Science Foundation as the No. 1 producer of African-American graduates who go on to earn science and engineering doctoral degrees;
- Numerous research grants, scholarly achievements, and creative accomplishments of our faculty and staff;
- Recognition of Howard University students as recipients of prestigious fellowships, scholarships and academic awards;
- Howard alumnus David Oliver capturing the Bronze medal in the 110-meter hurdles in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing;
- The election of a son of Howard as the first African-American president of the United States. Senator Barack Obama received a Doctor of Laws Degree *honoris causa* at Howard's 140th Opening Convocation; and
- The selection of the Howard University Showtime Band to perform in the 56th Inaugural Parade.

We are proud of these hallmarks. Dedication to excellence through perseverance, intellectual rigor, cooperation and sheer hard work continues to affirm our core values of the university, providing leadership for America and the global community.

Since coming to Howard, I have a deeper appreciation for our traditions of achievement and the unique role we play in the world. Our university's achievements occur every day across campus, from the classroom to the administrative offices. We are blessed with students who have chosen Howard to expand their horizons and prepare for future success. We are also blessed with a dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to the personal and intellectual development of our students and will accept nothing less. An example of our distinguished talent at Howard is Professor Rackham Goodlett, Math Professor and Assistant Director of the Center for Academic Reinforcement. This semester and for the past 33 years he has inspired a countless number of math and science students through proper motivation and the belief that goals can be achieved.

We have the privilege of living in exhilarating times fraught with great promise and steep challenges. The effects of the global financial crisis coupled with the university's deficit may



temporarily slow the pace of achieving our performance objectives; but we are confident that we have the creativity, self-discipline and willingness to sacrifice in these demanding times.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming semester as we move forward in creating the Howard University of tomorrow. We will work to improve services and balance the budget. We will explore the possibilities of further internationalization of our curriculum and community and expand research and scholarly opportunities for faculty and students. We will institute a campus-wide dialogue on the future of our university. We encourage you to think expansively, creatively, and practically. Where do we want Howard to be five years from now, ten years from now, and beyond? Just as important, how will we get there and what will you do to help us get there? This dialogue should make for a very exciting year and we encourage your active participation.

Once again, congratulations on a successful first semester. You are the university; and it is my privilege to serve as your President. I wish you a happy holiday season and best wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Sidney A. Ribeau
President