

January 30, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

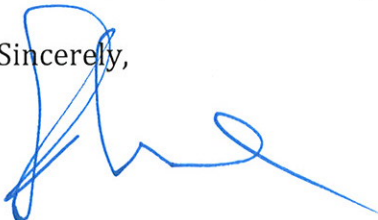
I am writing today to share my sincerest gratitude for the inspiring words you offered our country in your State of the Union Address. In proclaiming this a “year of action” and encouraging all of us to work together and summon what is best in ourselves “with our feet planted firmly in today our eyes cast toward tomorrow,” you echoed sentiments held dear by Martin Luther King, Jr. and other visionaries of our time. Those words – your words – spurred Centenary College of Louisiana, where I serve as President, into action.

The next day, January 29th, I announced the College’s decision to increase the minimum wage for its regular, full-time and part-time staff members to \$10.10. I also asked Centenary’s two major vendors, National Resource Management and Sodexo, to do likewise for their employees on our campus, and each agreed. This increase is effective immediately and going forward. Implementing this change is in line with Centenary’s long-held values and is absolutely in the best interest of our hard-working employees, our institution, and our community.

With the federal minimum wage at more than twenty percent less than it was during the Ronald Reagan administration, how could we not act? How could we not invest in our community to create an America “where prosperity is widely shared and opportunity for all lets us go as far as our dreams and toil will take us?”

College and universities have always served as a catalyst for change in formative times. The responsibility to lead by example lies within us. Centenary hopes to be a forerunner in that charge by developing citizens who engage the world around them with wisdom, compassion, and moral responsibility.

Sincerely,



B. David Rowe

BDR/dp

CC: Senator Tom Harkin
Representative George Miller