Dear Grambling State University Alumni and Friends:

Imagine what your life would be like today were it not for the educational foundation you received at Grambling State University. Now, imagine what it would be like for you to read letters like this from perspective and current students almost daily:

“After months of fundraising, selling chips and cookies at school, to my mother selling breakfast at her job, I was able to attend an HBCU college tour. During the tour, I was exposed to many HBCU institutions, but the university that captured my heart was Grambling State University! I attended the Annual Los Angeles Black College Expo on February 6, 2016. I was ecstatic to be accepted on the spot by the GSU recruiter. My acceptance is far more significant than I can explain. Dr. Larkin, I need financial assistance to attend Grambling State University.”

Sadly, we get letters like this too often, and sadder still, we are less able today to assist future leaders such as the perspective student who wrote this letter. With your help, by giving to the President's Appeal: Student GAP Sponsorship, their dreams of attending GSU could be realized. What we know is that students who must forego their first year of college, or who must drop out for financial reasons, will probably never complete their higher education. Again, with your help, this does not have to happen.

Gramblinites, we find ourselves with a unique challenge in our glorious history; never before have we been confronted with the steep hurdles we are now facing today:

• Louisiana’s consistent reduction in funding for Higher Education, with an additional projected 30% reduction in Higher Educational funding for fiscal year 2016-2017; and

• The reduction in TOPS (Taylor Opportunity Program Scholarship) funding to instate students to attend college.

I am making a direct appeal to you and requesting your financial support with a gift of any amount. I am also asking for contributions from your friends and fellow alumni. Every single gift helps.

If you would like to sponsor a student in need, please visit http://www.gram.edu/giving/.

Please join me in an effort to close the financial gap for these deserving students. These young people, the future of this state and this country, are depending on us. Many of them could make it if they only had an additional $500 or $1000. Come on, Gramblinites and friends! I know we can count on you for your support.

Thank you and let the Mighty Grambling Tiger roar!!

With Great Enthusiasm,

Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President