March 11, 2020

TO: Tuskegee University Veterinary Medicine Community
FR: Dr. Ruby L. Perry, Dean
TUCVM Leadership Team
RE: Rescheduling of 55th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration Due to the Coronavirus Outbreak

We are facing uncertainty with the growing concern about the spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus. Although it is our desire for the alumni, students, staff and supporters to participate in the 55th annual veterinary symposium, we must make responsible decisions relative to the health/well-being and the safety of our constituents.

With the increasing number of coronavirus cases across the globe, the World Health Organization has declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. This has caused cancellations and restrictive travels. Therefore, the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine’s leadership team in consultation with the symposium committee and the Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) Leadership have decided to postpone the 55th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium and the 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration to a later date. These leadership teams will continue to work together to develop a plan where alumni can continue to make their donations through class representatives until a new date is determined. It is important that we do not miss the essence of our 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration in 2020. We will continue to monitor the coronavirus outbreak and will provide you with updates on the rescheduling of the annual veterinary symposium and our anniversary celebration.

When the new date is confirmed, the venue will remain at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Montgomery Hotel and Conference Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Please note that all hotel reservations at the Embassy Suites have been canceled automatically at this time for any reservations made under the special accommodations and rate for the annual veterinary symposium. We will share the new hotel information for special rates once an official date is confirmed. However, for any hotel accommodations made outside of the Embassy Suites special rate, all those will need to be canceled by the individual.

For symposium registrants, your registration payments will be rolled over to the new date of the veterinary symposium once confirmed. However, if this date does not agree with your schedule, you may request a full refund with Mrs. Carrie King, Registration Coordinator, cking@tuskegee.edu, (334) 727-8470. For our sponsors and exhibitors, once a new date is confirmed, you will receive a separate communication with information on moving your reservations as well or how to receive a refund if you are no longer able to participate. If you need a refund at this time, please contact Mrs. Debra Mitchell, dmitchell@tuskegee.edu, (334) 727-8027.

Much appreciation to the Tuskegee veterinary medical community and our symposium sponsors, exhibitors, vendors, and volunteers who have dedicated so much time and work into preparing for the symposium and 75th Diamond Anniversary Celebration. Thank you for your patience as we work through the necessary logistics in rescheduling our veterinary symposium hopefully in the fall of 2020. We want you to remain healthy and well so please practice illness prevention methods as advised and keep abreast of the latest information from the CDC and see print resources at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html.