CENSUS BUREAU GUIDANCE in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

Tuskegee University Office of Marketing and Communications <marketing@tuskegee.edu>
Fri 4/3/2020 10:58 AM
To: Tuskegee University Office of Marketing and Communications <marketing@tuskegee.edu>

Dear Students and Employees:

As you are aware, the U.S. Census is underway, and citizens all across the country are being encouraged to submit their Census information either through forms mailed to homes or via the internet. Guidance previously released indicated that Census participants should respond based on where they would be physically residing/located as of April 1. However, the affects of the coronavirus pandemic — especially on the requirement that college students across the U.S. return to their primary residence — is changing that guidance.

Therefore, based on the advice of several higher education organizations and Alabama Census leaders, **it is imperative that college students and their families respond to the census AS THEY WOULD HAVE IF COVID-19 HAD NOT OCCURRED.** Even if students have returned to their parents’ or guardians’ homes, or are residing somewhere else temporarily, they should still be counted as part of the community where they normally live.

*In other words, students should be counted as living at their school-year residence had the health crisis not caused their living arrangements to change.* Unless a student lives with a parent or guardian during the school year, he or she should be counted at their on- or off-campus college residence, regardless of where they are living now.

Students who have returned home may no longer have their original Census forms or Census ID. You can complete your questionnaire at [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov) without any Census ID.

How does the Census matter to Tuskegee University specifically? Population data from the Census will determine for the next 10 years:

- how our community is represented in the state legislature, and how Alabama is represented in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- the amount of annual federal student financial aid made available to our students.
- annual funding made available to the university through state and federal budget allocations.
- grant support the university qualifies for as a land-grant university, an HBCU and a national historic site.
- funding our community receives annually from state and federal sources for vital, public safety and other essential services.

For more information about participating in the U.S. Census, visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).