



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 22, 2026

Dear College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni,

I extend warm greetings with a profound sense of optimism, confidence, and pride in our beloved Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM).

Earlier this year, many of us gathered in Montgomery for your annual meeting, where I shared an update on our accreditation efforts, including our engagement with the accrediting body in Chicago. At that time, the review process remained underway, and the final determinations had not yet been communicated. Today, I am pleased to share significant progress and reaffirm our commitment to the continued excellence and advancement of TUCVM.

The news is encouraging: We have successfully resolved two of the three accreditation concerns, and we are now preparing for a focused site visit in November to address the final remaining standard. Attached is a comprehensive report from Dean Ebony Gilbreath detailing our progress, achievements, and preparations for this important next step.

I had the privilege of representing Tuskegee University in Chicago alongside my Special Assistant for Veterinary Medicine Affairs, Dr. Willie Reed, and our distinguished Dean and fellow alumna, Dr. Ebony Gilbreath. We were supported by an exceptional team of legal counsel and strategic advisers, including Mark Cushing of the Animal Policy Group. Together, we presented a compelling, evidence-based case demonstrating the University's commitment to academic excellence, institutional accountability, and the long-term sustainability of veterinary education at Tuskegee.

Our first area of concern involved **financial resources and institutional capacity**. We demonstrated the University's financial strength through multiple years of audited financial statements reflecting positive operating results, complemented by evidence of our sustained investments in veterinary education. Central to our vision is the development of a new Small Animal Teaching Hospital, representing the first phase of a broader initiative to modernize TUCVM's facilities and expand its teaching, research, and clinical capabilities. Following its review, the accrediting body determined that this concern had been satisfactorily addressed and removed the deficiency.

The second area concerned **student performance on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE)**. This standard is a critical measure of academic preparation and student success. Under Dean Gilbreath's leadership, our dedicated faculty and staff implemented targeted academic interventions, enhanced student support systems, individualized coaching, and other strategic initiatives designed to improve outcomes. These efforts have yielded measurable results, with student performance meeting and exceeding the required benchmark. Consequently, this deficiency was also removed.

Our remaining area of focus involves **clinical resources and the breadth and quality of student clinical experiences**. The accrediting body must verify that our students have access to sufficient clinical volume, diversity of cases, and meaningful hands-on learning opportunities across species and disciplines. This determination requires direct observation and evaluation. Accordingly, an accreditation team is scheduled to visit Tuskegee in mid-November to assess our compliance with this final standard.

Having personally reviewed the data, reports, and progress achieved to date, I approach this visit with considerable confidence. Under Dean Gilbreath's leadership, TUCVM has demonstrated substantial improvements in clinical caseloads, expanded learning opportunities, and strengthened clinical services across small animal, equine, and other areas of veterinary practice. Additionally, strategic partnerships with shelters, veterinary practitioners, and community organizations have broadened our students' exposure to diverse clinical environments and enriched their experiential learning.

These accomplishments reflect more than progress toward compliance. They demonstrate an institutional culture of accountability, collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. Our faculty, staff, students, and leadership have responded to this challenge with determination and purpose, producing meaningful and measurable results.

While we remain focused on the November site visit, our aspirations extend well beyond accreditation.

Our vision is not simply to preserve the legacy of TUCVM, but to elevate it for generations to come.

The College of Veterinary Medicine remains accredited and continues its historic mission of educating exceptional veterinarians. As one of Tuskegee University's crown jewels, TUCVM occupies a distinctive and consequential place in American higher education and the veterinary profession. Our responsibility is to honor that legacy while positioning the College for a future defined by modern facilities, expanded clinical and research opportunities, academic innovation, strategic partnerships, and national and global distinction.

This is the larger promise of Tuskegee University's Renaissance Era: honoring our extraordinary history while pursuing a bold transformation that ensures our continued relevance, competitiveness, and excellence.

To our alumni, I extend a special invitation to remain engaged in this important work. Your professional accomplishments, advocacy, mentorship, philanthropy, and enduring loyalty are essential to the College's success. You are not merely beneficiaries of Tuskegee's legacy; you are among its most important stewards and ambassadors.

Our strength has always been found in the collective determination of the Tuskegee family. When we unite around a shared vision, we demonstrate that the resources, talent, and resolve necessary to shape our future reside within our own community.

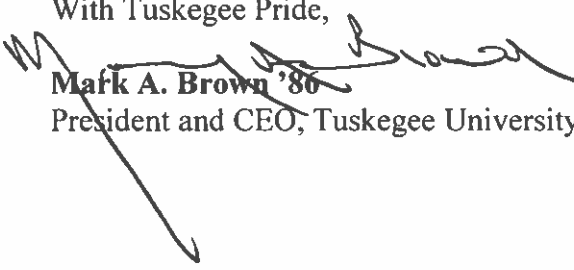
We are the help we need, and we are enough.

Thank you for your steadfast support, your confidence in our leadership, and your unwavering belief in the mission and promise of Tuskegee University and its College of Veterinary Medicine.

The work continues. The momentum is real. And the future of TUCVM is bright.

See you on the Yard!

With Tuskegee Pride,



Mark A. Brown '80

President and CEO, Tuskegee University