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**From:** Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 3:13 PM  
**Subject:** Message from Mr. Gary C. Abney

This email is being sent on behalf of Mr. Gary C. Abney.

Dear Campus Community:

As the ECU Board of Regents is scheduled to convene its first quarterly meeting of the new calendar year tomorrow (Friday, Jan. 25), I want to take a moment of your time to share a personal message with you. On June 30, 2013, I will have served as an ECU Regent for more than 13 years and at that time my term is scheduled to expire. It was my honor and privilege to have been appointed by Governor Patton in 1999 and 2001 and by Governor Fletcher in 2007 to the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents. I am honored and blessed to have worked with you and with past and present members of the ECU Board of Regents, Foundation Board, Alumni Board and numerous other ECU alumni, donors and friends to serve to the best of our abilities our students, faculty, staff, alumni, community, region and Commonwealth and to contribute to Kentucky's and our nation's level of educational attainment, quality of life, and economic prosperity.

Also, I am extremely grateful to my Board peers for entrusting me three years ago, on January 25, 2010, to serve Eastern Kentucky University, my beloved alma mater, as Chair of the Board, and for re-electing me as Chair for two additional terms. I have expressed my appreciation to my fellow Regents for having bestowed upon me the highest possible honor. There are not sufficient words to express what a privilege and pleasure it has been to serve with my esteemed colleagues as fellow Regent and Board Chair. Additionally, I want to thank Doug Whitlock for his guidance and service over the past years as President of ECU and invite you to join me in extending our appreciation to Doug and Joanne Whitlock and wish them the best in the coming years.

The ECU Board of Regents now has in progress, with the very able assistance of the ECU Presidential Search and Screening Committee, one of the Board's most important fiduciary duties and responsibilities – the search for and selection of the 12<sup>th</sup> President of our University. At this crucial time in ECU's history, it is vital that ECU be able to attract the strongest presidential applicant pool possible. With this in mind, I have decided not to seek reelection as Chair of the Board for the remainder of my term of January 25 through June 30, 2013. I believe it is in the best interest of ECU for the Board to elect a chair who is able to serve a complete one-year term, thereby removing any concern or doubt a potential presidential candidate may have in not knowing who will serve as Chair of the ECU Board of Regents during the entire 2013 calendar year.

Although I will not seek nomination for another term as Chair of the Board, I shall remain passionately committed and dedicated to ECU as a Regent for the remainder of my appointed term and as an alumnus and friend throughout the remainder of my life. I shall always cherish the opportunity to have served as a Regent and as Chair of the ECU Board of Regents. Thank you for your collegiality and friendship. I look forward to continuing our collaboration, friendship and shared love for and dedication to Eastern Kentucky University and wish us all the best as we move the university forward.

Yours truly,

Gary C. Abney