

**Lincoln University**  
**of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education**  
**2025-2026 Operational Budget Request**

President's Statement

Founded in 1854, Lincoln University is the oldest chartered historically Black university in the nation. A viable contributing higher educational institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with a strong commitment to the liberal arts and an entrepreneurial spirit, Lincoln prepares students to succeed in a rapidly changing economy.

We are very grateful to the Commonwealth for the generous support offered over the past years, including the significant increase in our State appropriation for 2024-2025. This was especially timely and made a significant impact on our institution given the complications all of higher education was facing due to the hold-up of FAFSA funding. The additional funding received from the Commonwealth during that critical time made it possible for the University to help our Pennsylvania residents navigate the already stressful process of determining how they and their families would be able to fund their pursuit of a higher education degree. We cannot overstate the significance of the confidence and support exhibited by your action and we remain grateful.

In addition to supporting tuition discounts for Pennsylvania students as well as new faculty and staff positions, Lincoln's State appropriation allows us to offer more institutional scholarships to Pennsylvania residents with the greatest need, retaining nearly all of our students who fall short of the financial resources needed to remain enrolled. Some of the dollars are also supporting internships and undergraduate research opportunities for our student body.

This year, again, we are asking the Commonwealth to further increase the University's level of support so that we can continue to transform the lives of the students we serve. Two-thirds of our Appropriation supports the overall operating budget, which continues to grow every year.

Historically 70% of our operating dollars are derived from student tuition and fees. Unfortunately, Lincoln experienced a 6% decline in enrollment in fall 2024, which greatly impacts the University's cash flow and ability to fully cover the marginal costs associated with offering a high quality education. Lincoln continues to offer a tuition freeze policy that maintains a student's tuition at the same level for a four-year period and allows families to better plan for educational expenses. Moreover, Lincoln did not increase tuition or fees for the 2024-2025 academic year. However, we continue to experience increases in utilities, health insurance and other fixed costs associated with operating a campus. Additionally, costs associated with educational goals and auxiliary functions are outpacing Lincoln's levels of revenue.

Increased Commonwealth funding is crucial to achieving major objectives to ensure the continuing success of the University and its students. Specifically, your support greatly impacts our efforts to:

- Ensure that our students are able to complete their higher education. This continues to be one of the greatest needs and priorities for Lincoln University if we are to continue to be a viable contributing higher education institution in the Commonwealth and enrich the lives of our young people

- Increase the sizes of our faculty and staff so that we may better achieve our educational goals
- Support co-curricular opportunities such as internships, undergraduate research and study abroad as important aspects of a 21st century education
- Invest in faculty and staff development towards best practices for developing and honing essential skills
- Build and sustain ubiquitous information technology on our campus to provide a vibrant educational environment.

Lincoln University has been transforming the lives of individuals from vulnerable communities especially Black students since 1854, more than 10 years before the emancipation of the race. This is a distinction held only by the State of Pennsylvania.

The University has benefited greatly from the Commonwealth's support for many years. We appreciate the funding and hope that the State considers increasing its investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B A A', written in a cursive style.

Brenda A. Allen  
President

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2025-2026 Budget Request 5% Increase

\$21,890,000

The State Appropriation helps Lincoln University keep its tuition and fees competitive, thereby reducing barriers to access and opportunity. Moreover, this fund helps to support several aspects that directly impact the quality of education offered by the institution.

The funding will help Lincoln to:

Provide tuition and fee support in the form of tuition discounts and scholarships for Pennsylvania residents.	\$7,390,000
Support Faculty Salaries	\$4,500,000
Support Staff Salaries	\$2,000,000
Increase funding for Co-Curriculars (Internship, Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad)	\$ 800,000
Increase funding to support faculty development specifically in areas of teaching related to 21st century skill development	\$2,000,000
Provide support for other faculty development opportunities towards increasing excellence as teach/scholars.	\$ 500,000
Modernize the network infrastructure (complete campus network wiring and switch upgrades in buildings; acquire technology consulting/staffing to support new technologies; complete the installation of wireless capability for entire campus.	\$2,500,000
Support progress towards the replacement and upgrading of the administrative software systems.	\$ 500,000
Deploy upgraded modern computer systems and software for our students to increase their preparedness and competitiveness in a highly technology driven 21 <sup>st</sup> century.	\$1,000,000
Provide upgraded and modernized computer systems and software for our faculty and also provide increased professional development opportunities utilizing modern technologies.	\$ 700,000

**HISTORY OF COMMONWEALTH  
FUNDING  
2021- 2025**

	Actual 2021-2022	Actual 2022-2023	Actual 2023-2024	Actual 2024-2025	Requested 2025-2026
Commonwealth Appropriation	15,166,000	15,166,000	18,401,000	20,848,000	21,890,000

For Lincoln University's 2025-2026 Operating Budget Request, we are requesting \$21,890,000 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to continue providing a positive educational environment as we seek to Advance Lincoln University's Legacy of Excellence. This represents a \$1,042,000 or 5% increase to our base appropriation, an additional investment that will help to support our campus and our state.