

Charlotte
Clark-Frieson
Alabama House of Representatives
District 37

July 11, 2018

ATTENTION: Crystal Brown
1904 Weatherly Circle SW
Decatur, Alabama 35603

RE: Southern Union State Community College
Main Campus Designation Of The Wadley Campus

Dear Ms. Brown:

I write this letter, not only as an alumna of Southern Union State Community College, but also as the Democratic Nominee for the Alabama House Of Representatives, For House District 37 for the 2018 Election Cycle.

As such, I fully support all recent efforts to maintain the main campus designation on the Wadley Campus of Southern Union State Community College. It is a common thread running through our communities, that inaccurate statements are being circulated concerning this issue. Therefore, it is hoped that this letter will clarify my position, and echo the sentiment of hundreds of citizens, residents, alumnae and prospective students that such a move is not supported.

Since 1922, Southern Union has been an important presence in Wadley. Many residents made sacrifices of land and money to keep the school in operation during lean years. Others opened their homes to students and to faculty, who often worked for no pay because they believed in the mission of Bethlehem College, as it was known in the early years.

Southern Union remains an integral part of the fabric of our community, thus shapes our identity, and it's rich history has resulted in quality education for generations of students, a source of pride for alumni, and name recognition for the school.

Both our immediate and neighboring communities, have strenuously objected to the idea of changing our campus in any manner that compromises or diminishes it's designation as the "main campus". We want to keep what we have, because the institution has clearly fulfilled its mission since 1922. It continues to prepare students for transfer to four year institutions and to successfully enter the workforce, while providing athletics, fine arts, and residential campus life.

SU is vital to the town of Wadley as well as our entire county, and this House District 37, and neighboring Districts. We fully support its status remaining as it has been since 1922. Without the sacrifices of Wadley residents, Southern Union State Community College would not exist-- and the Opelika Campus would never have been part of the institution that has served students so well for so many years.

Courage, Conviction, Common Sense

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As a minority student in the 1970s confronted with very limited opportunities to advance my education goals, Southern Union served the bridge between getting no education and ultimately completing an M.Ed. program at Auburn University in the 1980s. I became a career educator in the public schools of Georgia, something that might not have been possible without the strong presence of this institution in my community -- within driving distance of my home in Roanoke, Alabama. Without question, this same story could be told of numerous of my contemporaries who matriculated with me during that time. Many of our citizens and former students believe that if the Main Campus designation is eliminated, then it will merely serve as the prelude to the gradual elimination of substantially everything that has made Southern Union the great historical institution that it has become. Its history and significance will be lost to us forever.



Thus, I have fully and publicly embraced this community movement as a part of my aggressive campaign platform.

Please know that if elected to represent the citizens of House District 37 in the Alabama House Of Representatives, I stand ready to apply the full weight of whatever influence I have to the effort to keep this institution based in Wadley, Alabama.

Yours truly,

Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson

Charlotte A. Clark-Frieson

CACF:ccf

cc: Chuck Smith
Al Thompson
Ron Fantroy
Matthew Woods
Blake McAnally
Crystal Brown
Milton Davis
Chancellor Jimmy Baker

PS: Please feel free to use any information found in the header or footer of this letter to call me on my mobile phone: (334) 646-2056 with any questions, concerns to to discuss this matter further.

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