Dear Alumni and Friends:

It has been a busy summer on campus and the fall semester promises to be quite exciting.

Gov. Steve Beshear has approved a two-year, $4 million grant for scholarships to graduates from the high schools in nine major Southeastern Kentucky coal-producing counties for students with at least 60 credit hours of college work.

This scholarship will also enable us to offer courses on the campuses of some of the community colleges (and high school campuses in counties which do not have community college facilities) in this region at a net tuition cost to the student of about the same as attending the community college. The instruction will be via interactive television. A portion of the grant will provide state-of-the-art upgrades to these facilities. We have developed the program and are in the process of recruiting and enrolling students, which should result in a major expansion of our service to Central Appalachia.

As you may know, this time next year the University of Pikeville will have a new president, James Hurley, the first alumnus to serve in that role. When I assumed the presidency in 2009 I asked James to serve with me because I valued his experience as an educator and an administrator, and his involvement and dedication to the youth of our region. Along with his wife, Tina, who is also a graduate, the Hurleys have a great love for their alma mater. Their commitment to our mission, to students, to faith and family represents the very best of the “Orange and Black.”

At the end of my contract in June 2013, I will continue to serve, but in the role of chancellor, representing the institution and doing some fundraising.

The University of Pikeville has been my major philanthropic effort for more than 30 years and my involvement has meant a great deal to me. I believe UPIKE is the most important institution in Eastern Kentucky and I am proud that we have set our sights on becoming the leading university in Central Appalachia.