



November 24, 2021

Greetings Alumni & Friends,

I am so delighted to celebrate **TEN YEARS** of ASPIRE on the campus of Alabama State University. It is an honor and privilege to bless the youth in this community and students on this campus. Together we've learned much and shared experiences that will long remain with us in the years to come.

After being an educator for 30 years, I had a chance to see the academic, emotional, and social challenges our youth faced. The vision for ASPIRE, Amazing Students Putting in Resilient Effort, came to me while I was living in Cincinnati, Ohio. After moving to Montgomery, ASU gave me the opportunity to establish a program on campus that would allow college students to tutor, mentor, and motivate youth in the community.

Over the years, ASU students have done exceptionally well and have shared countless hours to this program and to their mentees. ASPIRE is proud to create a scholarship fund to assist ASU students who serve as mentors in this program.

I am thankful to Alabama State University for providing ASPIRE with a beautiful home on this campus which has allowed us to serve as a beacon of light for more than one thousand students across the River Region. Many ASPIRE students have attended and graduated from this great university. We look forward to another ten years at this illustrious university and impacting the next generation of leaders in our community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Handy

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Founder and Director of ASU ASPIRE Program