



My fellow ILAEOPPIAN's :

We are about to embark upon an exciting year! Just as history has been made with our 44<sup>th</sup> president-elect, Barack Obama, we will continue in that same vein as change agents within our association.

We have several “firsts” that we are working hard to bring into fruition this year. Just to name a few, our professional conference will produce its first TRiO Achievers Award Ceremony under the very capable leadership of **Ms. Viola Gray**. We are also planning our first yearbook which will be used annually, to speak to the successes of our programs throughout the state. This endeavor, being headed by **Mr. Bammeke Jenkins**, will call for a collaborative effort on all of our parts. While not necessarily new in our state, I'd also like to call attention to the very tedious undertaking of fundraising, which will be headed by **Dr. Jonathan McKenzie**. He will revive this endeavor and hopefully tap into new resources of which our association can take advantage. Our very own president-elect **Dr. Pinkey Stewart** will kick off the year with a financial literacy workshop that promises to be very informative.

I am only mentioning a few endeavors; however, your board is working feverishly to serve the needs of the association. I am looking forward to a very productive year. I hope you are too so, stay tuned.

Tracy Y. Cureton, President  
ILAEOPP