



**Cornell University**  
**Office of the Provost**

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July 27, 2012

Ms. Anika Daniels-Osaze  
President  
Cornell Black Alumni Association  
president@cbaa1976.com

Dear Anika:

Thank you and the Cornell Black Alumni Association for your continued support of our need-blind admissions policy and need-based financial aid programs. I want to assure CBAA that the Task Force on Financial Aid examined and discussed at length the topics and issues addressed in your letter. We believe our new loan initiatives will not have a negative impact on our ability to recruit, retain, and graduate students from all segments of the socioeconomic scale. We are proud to retain two jewels of our need-based program, a zero loan program (loans are replaced with grant aid) for students from families with incomes below \$60K and a zero parent contribution program for students from families with incomes below \$60K and assets below \$100K. These are integral elements of our financial aid portfolio. It is important to note that very few institutions around the country can commit this level of financial support to low-income students.

The next stage of implementing this program is being led by Vice Provost Barbara Knuth and Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Lee Melvin. They have identified strategies that focus on enhancing enrollment among students from diverse communities, particularly through developing relationships with pipeline groups and community-based organizations and considering carefully our use of off-site Admissions staff to target particular populations (e.g., we currently have Admissions staff based in New York City and California, and this presence has increased our recruiting ability throughout the northeast and southwest regions of the country). We plan to strategically increase promotion of the Award Match program to ensure prospective students are fully informed about Cornell's ability to match financial aid packages for students offered admissions to any of our Ivy peers or Stanford, MIT, or Duke. These strategies reflect that we are taking seriously the potential impacts of the financial aid loan initiatives changes and that we will be working to head off even modest reduction in the yield of low- or moderate-income students.

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It is important to note that Cornell continues to practice need-blind admissions, and our commitment to helping families afford an education at Cornell is supported by providing sufficient financial aid to all students with financial need.

One of our top priorities in the Cornell Now fundraising campaign is to enhance access by raising \$157 million for undergraduate scholarships. I extend my deep gratitude to CBAA for your efforts in helping us reach this goal.

Finally, I want to thank CBAA for the continued support your organization provides to admissions prospect programs and April yield events for admitted students, all of which make an indelible impact on our future Cornellians and their families.

Sincerely,



W. Kent Fuchs  
Provost