MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 11, 2022

TO: Academic Deans, Division/Department Heads, Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: James M. Palmer
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Participation in Commencement - December 10, 2022

The 27th Fall Commencement Convocation for undergraduate and graduate candidates is Saturday, December 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the William “Billy” J. Nicks, Sr. Building (Baby Dome). Graduating students will be allotted ten (10) tickets, which will be distributed through each College and School beginning November 28, 2022. For friends, families, and guests unable to attend Commencement in person, the University will stream the event live at www.pvamu.edu/stream.

Candidates for graduation should report to the Baby Dome by 7:30 a.m. The processional for students will begin at 8:45 a.m. Faculty will be pre-seated, wearing full regalia. Commencement rehearsal is Friday, December 9, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the Baby Dome.

The speaker for this fall’s Commencement is Dr. Cornell West, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor of Philosophy & Christian Practice at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Harvard, with earned MA and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy from Princeton, Professor West teaches on an extraordinarily broad range of subjects – including classics, philosophy, politics, cultural theory, literature, and music. He previously served on faculties at Yale, the University of Paris, Harvard, and Princeton, where he holds the title Professor Emeritus. West has written 20 books and edited 13. Best known for his classics *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters*, as well as his memoir *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud*, he is among the most sought-after contributors on social policy and political developments. His most recent book, *Black Prophetic Fire*, offers an unflinching look at nineteenth and twentieth-century African-American leaders and their visionary legacies.

As a prominent public intellectual, West is a frequent guest on the Bill Maher Show, CNN, C-Span, and Democracy Now. Working in a wide range of media and genres, he partnered with MasterClass.com to provide classes on philosophy and African-American Studies. He has also appeared in a number of films - most notably in the film *The Matrix* - and produced prize-winning spoken word albums. With a goal of communicating to a vast array of audiences, he especially prizes his role in keeping alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. – a legacy of truth-telling and bearing witness to love and justice.

For more information about Commencement, please visit www.pvamu.edu/commencement.

xc: Ruth J. Simmons
Carol Campbell
PVAMU Campus Community

www.pvamu.edu