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UA1D Letter of Resignation

Vernon Hornback

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

8 April 1971

Office of Athletics

President Dero Downing and
Board of Regents
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Dear Friends:

I have spent better than half of my life at Western. I first came up this hill in 1925, a freshman from a farm in Sonora, Kentucky. It is now forty-six years since then, and a lot has changed. I quit being a farm boy, graduated from Western and then from the University of Kentucky, married a Bowling Green girl and raised a family, coached and taught, headed the Physical Education Department and served as athletic director. Western grew up, too, during those years--and for the last few of them I haven't even gone "up the hill" anymore to go to my office.

It is both strange and pleasant to reflect on all the changes that have taken place in our lives -- Western's and mine -- over these years. The most obvious changes are in Western's physical plant, I suppose. But more interesting to me are the changes that mark her growth into maturity as an educational institution, and the growth on her influence for the good of the community she serves. I hope I have played a capable part in that growth, and that I have grown along with Western.

When I think of Western's changes I really see not so much change, however, as an accumulation of good effect. Our graduates teach in schools and colleges all over Kentucky and the nation. Everywhere I go I find men and women from Western coaching young people, teaching them sports and sportsmanship and physical education. Our athletes go on to play for the best professional teams in their sports, and acquit themselves with honor both as players and as men.

In thirty-three years at a school like Western one meets and works with a lot of young people. As I look back over these years I see more faces and hear more names - almost than I can keep track of - and from this realization of the number of good, earnest young people Western has qualified and sent out into the world, I get a sense of pleasure, fulfillment, and accomplishment. Western has served its people well, I think; and I hope that I have served Western well.

I am proud of Western and her success, and proud of the generations of good and successful students whom I have known here. I am proud, too, of the part I have been able to play both in Western's success and in that of her students.



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Western has given me opportunities I could never have dreamed of when I first came here from Sonora, Kentucky, forty-six years ago. I wouldn't have been able to believe my life, then, if anyone had told it to me. But it happened -- and I am deeply grateful for it. Through the years I have tried to match my gratitude with hard work, loyalty, and sincere devotion both to Western and to my profession.

Now as I tender my resignation from the faculty and prepare to retire, I look back on it all and am happy remembering what has been. I am happy with what is now, too, and I look forward to the future--Western's and mine-- with hope, confidence, and pleasure. Western and I grew up together, in a sense, and have been growing together all along. I trust there is a lot of growing ahead for both of us.

Again, may I wish you, President Downing, our Board of Regents, and Western continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Hornback".

Ted Hornback

TH:lt