

President's Desk

Dr. Rosalind Fuse-Hall, President Bennett College

New Provost Selected to Lead Academic Affairs

Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins is the new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Bennett College. She begins her tenure December 1, 2015. (See the story on Page 2)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Action Plan Provides for Strategies to Sustain Bennett

A major effort is underway this year which includes strategies that will stabilize the college financially over the next two years and lead to sustainability. The details are outlined in the "Sustainability and Thriving: An Action Plan for Bennett College."

Earlier this year, Bennett College re-structured to reduce its operations costs after a drop in enrollment. Our workforce was reduced by 10% with many cuts occurring with vacant positions. In addition to the reduction in the workforce, our Board of Trustees approved a 5 percent increase to \$28,062 for tuition, room and board.

Our primary focus during the restructuring process was to make sure that we maintained a high quality education for our students.

Our budget for the 2015-16 academic year is based on a fall enrollment of 510 students, which we have met. Bennett College has reached our freshmen student enrollment goal and exceeded our goal for returning students.

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Save the Date

- Oct. 30 21st Annual Bennett College/UNCF Golf Tournament, Bryan Park, 7:30 a.m.
- Martin Dixon Intergenerational Center Annual Costume Parade, at Bennett College, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Nov. 12 The Annual Graduate and Professional Schools Information Day Fair, Ida B. Goode Gymnasium, 10 a.m. – 2p.m.



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Seasoned Academician to Lead Academic Affairs at Bennett

Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, a seasoned academician at Cheyney University, has been appointed the new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Bennett College. She is scheduled to begin her tenure at Bennett on December 1.

Under Dawkins' leadership at Cheyney as vice president for academic affairs, she revised institutional academic policies and practices, overhauled financial aid and admissions, and signed new/updated articulation agreements with University of the Sciences of Philadelphia, LaSalle University and the Community College of Philadelphia. She also reinvigorated the International Program, established the Ad Hoc Advisory Committees on Retention and Admission Criteria, and promoted a culture of assessment, continuous improvement and data based decision making.

Prior to her arrival at Cheyney University, Dr. Dawkins served as provost, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, professor, the associate provost, vice president for Academic Affairs, and the director for the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Technology at Dillard University. Prior to that, Dr. Dawkins worked at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) for 28 years serving as the chief academic/administrative officer/dean of the College of Professional Studies, former interim vice president for Academic Affairs, and chair and professor of physical education.

Dr. Dawkins received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, M.A. from The University of Michigan, and B.S. from Johnson C. Smith University.

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The Action Plan approved by the board will focus on three areas — fundraising, enrollment growth and fiscal stability. In the area of fundraising, we want to expand the individual, corporate and foundation donor bases in partnership with the Board of Trustees. This year we will work to increase new and transfer student enrollment as well as increase retention among continuing students.

Achieving a balanced budget each year is high on our list of priorities.

We plan to achieve this goal by leveraging rental use of facilities and initiating a few strategies that will attract a new cohort of students. We need everyone who loves and cherishes Bennett College to support this plan.

Meet Our Leaders in Student Government



Bennett College SGA President for 2015-2016 is pictured with members of the Bennett student body leadership team: Bottom Row (L to R) Alexandra Huggins - Detroit, MI; Ka'la Hill - Largo, Maryland; Kee'Aera Hood - Indian Trail, NC; and Shemiah Curry - Chicago, IL
2nd From Bottom Row (L to R): Brea Fields - Kinston, NC; and Olivia Rubin - Flint, MI.
3rd From Bottom Row (L to R) : Adera Toye - Washington, DC; Aaleah Lancaster - Accokeek, Maryland; Jasmine Everett - Durham, NC; Keirra Sedgwick - Bowie, Maryland . Top Row (L to R) Kadrien Wilson - Greensboro, NC and Niquia Harris - Willingboro, NJ.

Bennett and Wells Fargo Advisors

Wells Fargo Advisors is partnering with Bennett College to offer students a credit-bearing course that provides insight into careers in financial services. Bennett College will become the first historically black college to offer the Securities Training Corp (STC) program which prepares students to take the examination for a Series 7 license, also known as the General Securities Representative Exam (GSRE), a test required for registered representatives.

The collaboration with STC adds a new dimension to Well Fargo Advisors' partnership with Bennett College. It is aimed at raising awareness of financial services career opportunities among women of color by encouraging financial education and providing financial support in the form of scholarships. Over the last two years, Wells Fargo Advisors has awarded a total of \$12,000 in scholarships to Bennett juniors and seniors.

\$125,000 Grant to Enhance Wi-Fi

Bennett College was awarded a \$125,000 grant from the Cannon Foundation, Inc. to enhance Wi-Fi in the residence halls and academic buildings on the campus. These funds in conjunction with other capital funds will support the upgrade.

The areas that will be affected by the upgrade will include: Robert Jones Hall, Carrie Barge Hall, Annie Pfeiffer Hall, Willa B. Player Hall, Jessie Reynolds Hall, the Honors Hall, the Watkins Faculty House, the David D. Jones Student Union, the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, and the Little Theater.

White House Honors '03 Graduate

Bennett College graduate Marissa Jennings is one of 11 young women who was honored, Sept. 15 at the White House as "Champions of Change" who are empowering their communities. The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. Jennings is chief executive officer of SOCIALgrlz LLC, the first mobile web publishing company creating content specifically for African-American girls ages 13-17.

Bennett College Joins Say Yes

On Sept. 14, Bennett College became one of the newest members of the Say Yes To Education Higher Education Compact. Bennett is among the list of the organization's

31 newest higher education partners which includes institutions such as California Institute of Technology (CalTech), George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University. A full roster is available at www.sayyestoeducation.org. Say Yes to Education, a pioneering nonprofit organization that partners with communities to promote the goal of giving every public high school graduate access to college or other post-secondary scholarships, announced that it had selected Guilford County, North Carolina to be the site of its next community chapter. In joining the Say Yes Higher Education Compact, private colleges and universities agree to ensure that students whose annual family income is at or below \$75,000 are typically eligible, at a minimum, to attend college tuition-free, provided they successfully navigate the institution's regular admission process.

Lancaster 2015 HBCU All-Stars

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHIHBCUs) has selected Bennett College Junior Aaleah Lancaster of Bryans Road, Maryland as a member of the first class of the 2015 HBCU All-Stars. WHIHBCU recognized 83 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

Bennett No. 15 on HBCU Ranking

Bennett College climbed 10 spots this year in *U.S. News and World Report* annual ranking of the nation's top historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). This year's list placed Bennett College at No. 15, up from No. 25 last year, making it the third best HBCU in North Carolina and the No.1 private HBCU in the state. North Carolina A&T State University, which ranked No. 9 on the HBCU list, and North Carolina Central University, which ranked No. 12, were the only HBCUs of the 11 in North Carolina that had a higher ranking than Bennett College.

New Publication for the Bennett Community

To help keep the Community informed, The Office of the President in conjunction with the Division of Institutional Advancement have developed "President's Desk." Please read and send any comments to presidentrfh@bennett.edu.

Bennett Awarded \$400,000 Grant from NSF to Enhance Student Performance in STEM

Bennett College was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to determine what works well in retaining students in math and science.

The grant title, “What Works Well in STEM Retention: A New Framework for Student Retention and Success,” is a part of the NSF Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program Broadening Participation Research Projects, which seeks to enhance the quality of undergraduate education and research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at HBCUs as a means to broaden participation in the nation’s STEM workforce.

Through the grant, Bennett College will examine the synergy and impact of four academic program interventions: mandatory tutoring for students with a grade of C or lower in any STEM course; supplemental instruction in gateway courses, general biology, general chemistry, college algebra, pre-calculus, and physics; faculty mentoring and; intrusive advising of students.

Bennett Offers Portuguese

Bennett College is offering Portuguese language classes to its students for the first time this fall, through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship (FLTA) Program of the United States Department of State Bureau of Educational

and Cultural Affairs. It will compliment an array of other foreign languages the college offers, including Arabic, Chinese and Kiswahili. The general public was able to register for credit for the foreign language courses. The public also is invited to audit the courses for self-enrichment at no charge. For more information, please contact Irma White-Simmons at iwhite@bennett.edu or Lee J. Todhunter at ltodhunter@bennett.edu.



Bennett College President Rosalind Fuse-Hall practices speaking Portuguese with a faculty member in the Foreign Language Department. This semester the college added new faculty to the department. From left to right are: Pei-an Hsia, Mandarin Chinese Instructor; Priscilla Bordon, Portuguese Instructor; Sophia Semle, Kiswahili Instructor; and Tarik Louki, Arabic Instructor.

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