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July 24, 2009

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SACS REAFFIRMS ACCREDITATION FOR BENNETT COLLEGE

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GREENSBORO, N.C. – (July 16, 2009) - The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has reaffirmed the accreditation of Bennett College for Women, signaling the continued academic and financial stability of the 128-year-old historic institution.

The accreditation is now in place for the next 10 years.

College leaders received official word of the accrediting agency's action on July 10. The reaffirmation comes after more than three years of extensive preparation and review of the college, first by the Bennett College administrators and then by a team of independent collegiate observers.

"Reaffirmation confirms for us the fact that Bennett is meeting the highest standards in preparing young women for their future in the work place and in society. It also means that our financial stability and institutional vision are as they should be," said Bennett President Dr. Julianne Malveaux. "Our faculty, staff and administrators have worked long and hard to achieve this accomplishment. They have done double duty in taking us over this hurdle while maintaining the level of academic excellence characteristic of Bennett College."

The preparation for reaffirmation began almost three years ago under the leadership of former Bennett College President Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole. The accreditation preparation continued as the institution welcomed its current president Dr. Malveaux.

"Accreditation is critical to the life of a college. Regardless of who is at the helm, maintaining the standards must be a priority. We all understood this during the transition, so the team worked to make it happen," Dr. Malveaux said.

John D. Jones was brought in as the SACS Accreditation Liaison to coordinate the campus-wide effort associated with the reaffirmation process. It was his job to lead the process that included all constituents of the College (Trustees, staff, faculty, students, alumnae and the community).

"Accreditation means that degrees granted by your institution have public value. It also means that students attending your institution can continue to qualify for financial aid," said Jones. "These are imperative."

Bennett College for Women, located in Greensboro, NC, was founded in 1873 as a coeducational institution and in 1926 was reorganized as a college for women. A small, private, historically institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Bennett offers a liberal arts education conducive to excellence in scholarly pursuits; preparation for leadership roles in the workplace, society, and the world; and life-long learning in a technologically advanced, complex global society. For more information, visit www.bennett.edu.

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