



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bennett College

900 E. WASHINGTON STREET, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27401

March 17, 2025

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I am writing to provide an important update on the search process for our interim president. The Board of Trustees of Bennett College through its Governance Committee has engaged in thoughtful and thorough deliberations about the competencies and skill set required for an effective interim leader. We are now prepared to bring a diverse group of highly qualified candidates to campus for the Bennett community to meet with and engage.

First, it is important to distinguish between an acting president and an interim president. An acting president typically serves for a short period of time to maintain the status quo until a permanent president is appointed. By contrast, an interim president is appointed for a defined period with a specific mandate to work closely with the Board of Trustees to lay a strong foundation for the next permanent president.

The Governance Committee has carefully evaluated the skills and experience needed in a leader who can successfully build upon Bennett's foundation for long-term stability and growth. Each candidate has received key institutional documents, including a document prepared by the Governance Committee entitled *Clear Expectations for the Interim President During Their Tenure*. This document outlines five critical areas of focus:

1. An improved financial position to include addressing the \$3M annual budget gap through strategic cost management and revenue enhancement. This will involve diversifying our investor base and revenue sources and further developing a sustainable financial business model for the College.
2. An enrollment strategy leveraging data and analytics to ensure a positive enrollment trend from applicant targeting to matriculation without increasing institutional aid to students and operating losses.
3. Enhanced facility optimization solutions that improve operational efficiency, especially in deferred maintenance, increase productivity, and reduce costs.
4. Enhancement of the college's approach to technology by improving the nature of all academic departments to fully integrate information technology — not only as tool for use in a given academic area, but an integral part and function of the discipline.

5. The enhanced implementation of the system of performance measurements and achievements in all arenas of the College that focuses on results and uses metrics and the verification of achievement to drive higher levels of performance.

The candidates under consideration have been evaluated on their ability to meet these expectations. As you meet with them, we ask that you assess them through this lens as well.

The Board of Trustees appreciates your engagement and support during this critical time. Your input will be invaluable as we work to ensure that the next interim president is well-equipped to guide Bennett through this transitional period.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Bennett College.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Jones Havard

Cassandra Jones Havard, '78
Chair, Board of Trustees
Bennett College

