



Bennett College Appoints Interim President to Lead During Period of Strategic Transition

GREENSBORO, N.C. (April 15, 2025) — The Bennett College Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Teresa Hardee as Interim President, effective July 1, 2025. Dr. Hardee assumes the role following the resignation of President Suzanne Walsh and will lead the institution during a period of critical transition and strategic renewal.

A proven leader in higher education, Dr. Hardee brings to Bennett College more than 20 plus years of leadership in higher education, state agencies and business settings. Her background includes experience in financial and operational management and enrollment management. Throughout her career, Hardee has demonstrated a deep commitment to student success, institutional sustainability, and mission-driven leadership. Her career includes stewarding multi-million-dollar budgets, strengthening administrative operations, and driving organizational effectiveness in colleges and universities undergoing significant transformation.

In this interim capacity, Dr. Hardee will focus on addressing the College's most pressing challenges, including enrollment growth, financial stability, and optimizing work processes.

"We are confident that Dr. Hardee is the right leader to guide Bennett College through this important period," said Cassandra Jones Havard, Chair of the Bennett College Board of Trustees. "Her fervent belief in women's education, coupled with her experience in navigating complex institutional environments, will provide steady leadership as we prepare for the next chapter in Bennett's storied history."

Dr. Hardee will work closely with the Board, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae to implement immediate strategies aimed at stabilizing enrollment, strengthening institutional advancement, and advancing the College's mission as one of only two historically Black colleges for women in the United States.

"I am truly honored to serve Bennett College at such a pivotal time," said Dr. Hardee. "Bennett's legacy is unmatched, and its future holds even greater promise. Together with the Bennett community, I am committed to building on its strengths and charting a bold path forward."

The Board of Trustees will provide additional updates regarding its national search for a permanent president. In the meantime, the College remains focused on advancing academic excellence, operational strength, and a student-centered campus environment.

About Bennett College

Founded in 1873 and located in Greensboro, North Carolina, Bennett College is a private, historically Black liberal arts college for women. Committed to fostering leadership, academic excellence, and civic engagement, Bennett continues to educate and empower women to lead lives of purpose, integrity, and influence.

