

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 27, 2017

Stillman College Names Seventh President; UA's Dr. Pruitt Selected for Board of Trustees

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama — The Stillman College Board of Trustees has named interim president Dr. Cynthia Warrick as the College's president and appointed five new trustees who will assume their duties on July 1. The new trustees are Dr. Samory T. Pruitt, Dr. Leonard Duff, Dr. Charles M. Durham and attorneys Gerry L. Hargrove and Devarieste Curry.

Warrick, who currently serves as interim president, becomes the seventh president in Stillman's 142-year history. In accepting the appointment, Warrick said, "We will continue to uphold the traditions and standards of the college while advancing new initiatives that support our mission, the community, the state and the nation."

The native of San Antonio, Texas graduated from Howard University with a BS in pharmacy. She also holds an MS in public policy from Georgia Tech and a doctorate in environmental science and public policy from George Mason University.

With over 20 years of service in higher education as a faculty member and in administrative positions, Warrick said her focus will be on connecting students and the college in ways that "advance academic excellence, graduation, admissions into graduate and professional schools and fruitful careers."

New trustee Dr. Pruitt has been vice president for Community Affairs at The University of Alabama since 2004. An international leader in the field of engagement scholarship, he serves as president of the board of directors of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium composed of 37 US and foreign member institutions. He is also publisher of the "Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship," a leading international engagement research journal. He received the BS in mathematics, MA in public administration and PhD in higher education administration, all from The University of Alabama. His many leadership roles in the Tuscaloosa area include chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream Initiative committee, the West Alabama and UA United Way Campaign, the Tuscaloosa Rotary Club, and the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

In becoming a member of a board with which The University of Alabama has long had close ties and projects in common, Pruitt said: "It is indeed an honor to be asked to serve on this distinguished board. Over the last century and a half, Stillman College has produced outstanding students and has been a model of academic excellence. I am excited about the opportunity to serve in ways that help prepare Stillman students for leadership, scholarship and service to society."

At its annual spring meeting, the Stillman Board also elected as trustees:

- Dr. Leonard Duff, retired Pickens County school superintendent with 48 years of service in education in California and Alabama. His BA is from Stillman College, MA in education from California State University, and PhD from U.S. International University in San Diego, California.
- Dr. Charles M. Durham, retired Tuscaloosa First Presbyterian Church pastor and currently interim pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, a graduate of Rhodes College and doctor of ministry from Union Theological Seminary. Dr. Durham served previously as a Stillman College trustee.
- Attorney Devarieste Curry, JD from Georgetown University, founder and principal of the Curry Law Firm in Washington, DC.
- Attorney Gerry L. Hargrove, JD from Georgetown University, former general counsel and senior business executive for General Motors with extensive experience in financial alliances, acquisitions and negotiations for international commercial transactions.

Trustees rotating off the board and moving to emeritus status are Gloria A. Dennard, Dr. Evelyn Jenkins Gunn, Ann Lavender Simmons and Tracy Rosser. The board re-elected Dennis O. Driver as chairman and elected Sarah Harte as vice chair and Melissia Davis as secretary.

Stillman College was authorized by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1875 and is a member institution of the United Negro College Fund. A coeducational college of liberal arts and sciences, and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Stillman College has a proud tradition fostering academic excellence in the preparation of students for leadership and service.



Photo caption: Dr. Samory T. Pruitt, vice president, UA Division of Community Affairs