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notes

Editorial Staff

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From the Editors Notebook

2 A New President for Howard



Franklyn G. Jenifer, Ph. D., a 1962 graduate of Howard University, was chosen December 16, 1989 to become the 14th president of Howard. Congratulations!

Jenifer's appointment was announced by John E. Jacob, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees at an afternoon press conference on campus. He was one of three finalists for the job, which became vacant at the end of last June when James E. Cheek, who had been president for 20 years, retired. The other two finalists, both Howard alumni, were Carlton P. Alexis, interim

president of the university, and H. Patrick Swygert, executive vice president at Temple University.

Jenifer, who is expected to be at Howard by July, is the first graduate of the university to become its president—and the fourth African American for the post in Howard's 122-year history.

In making the official announcement of Jenifer's appointment, Jacob said Jenifer was the board's final choice because "of his outstanding record of achievement as a university administrator and as an educator." He noted that "although all three of the finalists that the board considered for the position had distinguished backgrounds, the board decided that for the coming years Jenifer was best suited to lead the university with its many tasks, its many ambitious plans and its mission of providing research, education and community service."

Also, the following background information on Jenifer was released at the press conference: Jenifer, Chancellor of Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education, has served in that position since 1986, overseeing 27 public colleges and universities in the state.

A native of Washington, D.C., he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in microbiology from Howard University in 1962 and 1965, respectively. He went on to acquire a Ph.D. in plant virology from the University of Maryland in 1970.

Following graduate school, he joined the faculty of Rutgers University, becoming chairman of the biology department in 1976. In 1977, he was named associate provost at Rutgers. Two years later he became vice chancellor of the New Jersey Department of Higher Education, where he served until his appointment to head the Massachusetts system.

In the process of selecting a president, a Howard presidential search committee was formed last summer to seek applications, consider candidates, and make a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the appointment. The search committee, composed of 13 selected board members, included a student, a faculty member and an alumna of the university. □

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