Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey Seals 43 Stellar Years of Leadership by Announcing Plans to Retire in June 2022

Dr. William R. Harvey arrived on the campus of Hampton Institute, in 1978, to take over the reigns as leader of an institution that was slowly losing ground. Many wondered why he chose Hampton. Other institutions, including majority institutions and more financially stable institutions, had offered him presidencies, but he decided to accept the position at Hampton. He chose Hampton because he wanted to be in a place where he could offer the greatest service and make a difference. Dr. Harvey has often stated that choosing Hampton was the best professional decision of his life.

Prior to beginning his illustrious career at Hampton, this celebrated statesman from Brewton, Alabama earned degrees from Talladega College, Virginia State University and Harvard University. During his career at Hampton, he has received 11 honorary doctorates and countless awards, including the Daily Press Citizen of the Year Award, numerous keys to the city from localities around the country, American Council on Education John Hope Franklin Award, the City of Hampton Distinguished Citizen's Medal, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Year Leadership Medal, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Year Leadership Medal. His alma mater, Talladega College, named the African American Art Museum that houses the treasured Amistad Murals in his honor. Now, following a steady, four-decade plus climb of greatness, Dr. Harvey will move on to his next chapter of service on June 30, 2022.

It is virtually impossible to express in words the debt of gratitude the entire Hampton University community carries ever so deeply for Dr. Harvey. The news of his retirement is likely to draw a full range of emotions because he has touched the lives of so many. His legacy is rich and indelible on nearly every inch and across every page in the annals of the historic campus.

“As a Hampton University Alumnus and Chairman of its Board of Trustees, the growth and development that I have witnessed under Dr. Harvey’s successful leadership have been, in a word, triumphant,” said Trustee Wesley Coleman. “The significance of this president’s legendary contributions to Hampton will be celebrated for generations. Indeed, the school is so much better off for his having served as our 12th President. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and all of us who love Hampton, we will always be grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Harvey for the immeasurably great job that they have done for the past 43 years and will continue to do for the remainder of his tenure.”

Many will remember the day Dr. Harvey arrived on the campus with a great vision of what Hampton could become. He based his vision on the words of Hampton’s founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, who said that he wanted Hampton to have excellent academics (which today is called workforce development) and to build character. Armstrong also said that of the two, character was more important. This is the playbook that Dr. Harvey followed throughout his entire tenure. It is from this playbook Dr. Harvey charted his unprecedented success as a president and Hampton’s tremendous growth as an institution.

Hampton University and the higher education community are proud of the legacy of leadership that Dr. Harvey has established during his 43-year tenure at our “Home by the Sea.” The triumphs under Dr. Harvey’s leadership are more than worthy of note and actually too many to list. A sampling of his accomplishments include: the initiation of 92 new academic degrees, including 12 new doctoral programs; erecting 29 new buildings; increasing SAT scores by more than 300 points; launching four satellites which are currently flying in space; building a state-of the-art weather antenna that can detect hurricanes and storms up to 2,000 miles away; establishing the largest free-standing proton beam cancer center in the world, which treats prostate, breast, lung, ocular, pediatric, spine, head, neck and brain cancers; and increasing the endowment from $29 million to over $300 million.

Hampton is not the same place it was when Dr. Harvey arrived. Today, Hampton attracts outstanding students with high SAT scores who bring positive national and international attention to Hampton by winning prestigious scholarships and competitions, conducting research, as well as engaging in prominent leadership and service activities. Interest in the “Hampton Experience” has led to between 15,000 and 20,000 applications annually and a steady enrollment. More than 36,000 students have graduated from Hampton under his leadership. Classified by the Carnegie Commission as a ‘High Research Activity’ institution, faculty and students conduct cutting-edge research in various areas. Hampton continuously ranks high among the nation’s colleges and universities. Dr. Harvey’s list of accomplishments is much too long to include each one, but they have benefited Hampton, the Hampton Roads Region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the national higher education landscape.

As 100% owner of a PepsiCo Bottling Company in Houghton, Michigan, Dr. Harvey is an astute businessman who runs Hampton as a business for educational purposes. Continued on page 2
When asked for the formula for his success, Dr. Harvey shared, “The formula for any success that I have had is based on five priorities: character traits of honesty, integrity, respect, trustworthiness and good personal behavior; high standards and values; a good work ethic; service to others; and appreciating and utilizing the team approach.”

He says that he has also learned a great deal about management and governance from the boards on which he has served. The non-profit boards include: National Geographic Society, National Merit Scholarship Corporation, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, USO World Board of Governors, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Education (NAFEO), Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (J-Lab), Harvard Cooperative Society, Ft. Monroe Authority, Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia, Knoxville College Board of Trustees, Southeastern Universities Research Association, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Woodrow Wilson Foundation and Defense Advisory Board on Women in the Service. Service on corporate boards includes: Fannie Mae, Signet Bank, First Union National Bank, Newport News Savings and Loan, Newport News Shipbuilding Corporation, Trigon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and United Virginia Bank.

In addition to the professional accomplishments Dr. Harvey achieved at Hampton, he also experienced great personal joy on these hallowed grounds. Dr. Harvey moved to Hampton with his wife Norma Baker Harvey, to whom he has now been married to for 53 years. Mrs. Harvey is legendary in her own right. Not only has she handled her duties as First Lady with style and grace, she has been of great service to the wider community, as well. She is known for her active service as a board member of the American Heart Association, the Virginia Symphony, Towne Bank, Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary, the National Conference of Community and Justice, the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, and the Planning and Research Committee for the United Way. Recognized for her commitment to service, Mrs. Harvey was appointed to serve on the Governor’s Task Force on Substance Abuse and Sexual Assault on College Campuses and the USS Hampton Commissioning Committee. She has made significant contributions in each of these roles.

Dr. and Mrs. Harvey arrived at Hampton with their two young children, Kelly Renee and William Christopher. Their youngest daughter, Leslie Denise was born here after they arrived. Leslie is the first baby born to a sitting president since Gen. Armstrong and his wife had baby Margaret in 1893. The Harveys raised their family here, and it has expanded to include four granddaughters—Taylor, Gabrielle, Lauren and Victoria. They have also adopted the Hampton family as their own. Hampton is not just a job for Dr. Harvey; it is a way of life.

The author of books, articles, and other publications, Dr. Harvey is often in demand to lecture on leadership and fundraising at major colleges, universities, and organizations. He plans to continue to be of service to the higher education and business communities, as well as complete several book projects now underway. Everyone who knows Dr. Harvey knows that he will always contribute to and be of service to his “Home by the Sea.”

Hampton University Becomes Community Center for Coding and Creativity, in Collaboration with Apple and Tennessee State University

In celebration of Computer Science Education Week, Hampton University announced it will become a community center for Coding and Creativity as part of Apple’s Community Education Initiative and Tennessee State University’s HBCU C2 initiative designed to bring coding and creativity experiences to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their communities.

“Our founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong wanted to prioritize two tenets for Hampton University; the first was a strong academic offering, which today would be called workforce development. The second was the development of character. We continue to remain on the cutting edge of technology and workforce development, as they both are vital for the success of our future digital world and the economy,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Faculty leaders from Hampton University will participate in Apple's ongoing Community Education Initiative Learning Series to learn about coding and app development. As part of that ongoing professional development, educators will explore innovative ways to engage with learners using Apple’s comprehensive curriculum, which utilizes its easy-to-learn Swift programming language.

“The Department of Computer Science at Hampton University is committed to bringing technology and specifically access to coding for all throughout Hampton Roads. It is a privilege to participate with Apple and Tennessee State’s HBCU C2 initiative to ensure students, within our community, as well as internal to Hampton University across all disciplines. It is important that all students are prepared for the ever rising demand of technology through learning to code and create,” said Dr. Jean Muhammad, Chair of the Department of Computer Science.

As part of its Community Education Initiative, Apple is supporting Hampton University with equipment and professional development to help the university become the pre-eminent HBCU C2 community center to bring coding and creativity to Hampton Roads.
Hampton University Receives $2.75 Million Grant from Dominion Energy to Establish the ‘Dominion Energy Scholars’ Endowment Fund, Installation of Rooftop Solar Arrays and Support for the University COVID-19 Community Testing and Vaccine Program

Students at Hampton University will be able to receive a new renewable scholarship thanks to a $25 million grant from Dominion Energy. Over five years, the grant provides $1.5 million to endow the Dominion Energy Scholars fund, and provides $1.25 million in support for the green energy and COVID program.

“Hampton University is so thankful for the generosity of Dominion Energy and appreciative of their support to our institution and other HBCUs during this unprecedented pandemic. It is in these times that we must remember the importance of coming together and being supportive of one another. When we work together, our combined efforts help ensure our students’ future success,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Hampton University is one of 11 historically black colleges and universities benefitting from Dominion Energy’s six-year “HBCU Promise.” The program will support endowments, capital projects, operating expenses and educational programs in clean energy at HBCUs in Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina and South Carolina.

“We know that education can serve as a springboard for social and economic mobility,” said Ed Baine, president of Dominion Energy Virginia. “We’re honored to support HBCUs that are doing a great job developing the future workforce and leaders of our nation.”

The grant to Hampton University will help establish the “Dominion Energy Scholars” endowment that will support 15 students each year in perpetuity. Dominion Energy Scholars will be sophomores, juniors and/or seniors who will receive $2,000 annually.

The scholarship is renewable and students will be required to have a 3.0 GPA. Preference will be given to STEM majors.

Also, the funding designated for green energy will be used to install rooftop solar arrays on two buildings: Winona Hall, a resident hall for upper class women and/or the Katharine Building, a 100-year-old recreation center for students and faculty. The arrays will be installed in the next three to six months.

There will also be some grant funds to support a COVID-19 outreach and community testing and vaccine program. Funding will support salaries for a medical director, lab managers and lab technicians.

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Dominion Energy has also committed $10 million in scholarships to assist African-American and other underrepresented minority students who reside in the company’s service area. Students can learn more and apply at DominionEnergy.com/EquityScholarships.

Hampton University Alumna Rashida Jones Named President of MSNBC; Becomes First Black Executive to Lead a Major Cable News Organization

Hampton University alumna Rashida Jones has been named President of News Network MSNBC. Jones begins Feb. 1, 2021 and is the first Black executive to lead one of the major cable news organizations. Jones is the current senior vice president for MSNBC, and will be succeeding longtime network president Phil Griffin.

“Congratulations to Ms. Rashida Jones on this historic promotion to leadership at one of America’s top news-based cable channels,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “Ms. Jones is a prime example of the type of alumni we envisioned when we opened our journalism school. The Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications (SHSJC) was built with a vision to produce ethical and competitive leaders in mass media who are equipped to practice excellence and innovation in multimedia technology while adhering to the core principles of journalism and communications. Ms. Jones’ appointment proves that Hampton University continues to provide the strong foundation for a rewarding future.”

Jones is a 2002 Hampton University Mass Media Arts graduate and has had a very lucrative career in the journalism industry. Her industry credits include news director of WIS-TV, director of live programming and executive producer for The Weather Channel, and producer for WTKR-TV. In her current position as senior vice president at NBC News and MSNBC, Jones leads breaking news and major events coverage. She also oversees MSNBC’s daytime and weekend programming.

“If you’ve worked with Rashida on any of those endeavors, you know that she has an outstanding track-record and she leads with a laser-like focus and grace under pressure. I know she will be an excellent leader for MSNBC,” wrote NBCUniversal News Group Chairman Cesar Conde, in an email to staff. In 2019, Jones was inducted into the Hampton University Scripps Howard School Hall of Fame.

“Rashida is the Co-Chair of our Advisory Board, and an alumna who shows her love for her ‘Home by the Sea,’ not only in voice, but in deed. All that she carries at 30 Rock, Rashida has given of her time and resources consistently,” said B. DàVida Plummer, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. “Teaching, mentoring, and inspiring, while etching a path forward for the students here in this School who aspire to follow in her footsteps. We are bursting with pride right now for Rashida.”
As the holiday season approached, Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton University’s President, expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the hard working members of the Hampton University Community. Dr. Harvey announced that all faculty and staff would receive a 2% pay increase and an end-of-the year bonus of $200 with an added measure of holiday cheer.

During the onset of the national pandemic, it was announced that annual faculty and staff raises would not occur this year. However, due to the charitable gifts that Hampton has received from others during these trying times, Dr. Harvey has reversed that decision and now all faculty and staff will receive a 2% pay increase, effective January 1, 2021.

“I want to express my sincere gratitude to members of the faculty and staff on how you have approached your duties at Hampton during these challenging times. Gratitude is a virtue, and it is important to me that I share with you how grateful I am for all that you do for our ‘Home by the Sea,’” said Dr. Harvey. “So many of you have played an important role in Hampton’s goal to weather the COVID-19 pandemic, and I can never thank you enough.”

Dr. Harvey gifted an additional $25 to bring the Christmas turkey to the table. His 43-year tradition of handing out holiday turkeys to all of Hampton’s employees was missed this year due to the pandemic. So, the university president, known for his caring spirit, is keeping the season bright during these challenging times with this extra token of appreciation.

All current faculty and staff will receive a 2% pay increase, the $200 bonus and the $25 gift for the much anticipated and celebrated annual turkey give-away. All gifts were received just in time for Christmas, with the Harvey family’s well wishes, and prayers for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Hampton University Celebrates Faculty and Staff with Two Percent Pay Increase and Holiday Bonus

Hampton University proudly announces the release of a commemorative calendar, showcasing our Historic Legacy Park. This calendar features iconic names and faces that have significantly contributed to the lives and futures of the students, faculty and staff of this storied institution of higher learning. The individuals depicted here cover a wide spectrum of US Presidents, Civil Rights icons, HU alumni as well as the University founder Gen. Samuel Chapman Armstrong and Dr. William R. Harvey, who has served the institution as President for more than four decades.

Purchase Your Commemorative Calendar Today! $25.00 - Free Shipping

For More Information Visit s.hamptonu.edu/legacy-park-calendar