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Henberg named interim president

Marvin C. Henberg, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty for 11 years, will guide Linfield College during the next several months after being named interim president by the Board of Trustees.

Henberg was appointed in May following a national search. He was not a candidate for the permanent position and will not be a candidate in the ongoing search. Henberg, who replaces retiring president Vivian A. Bull, will serve until a new president takes office sometime in 2006.

“The Board of Trustees is delighted to have a person of Marv Henberg’s caliber and experience lead Linfield College at this time,” said Glenna Kruger ‘68, chair of the Board of Trustees, in announcing the appointment. “Dr. Henberg has a thorough understanding of all aspects of Linfield and will provide strong leadership to keep the college moving forward during this period of transition.”

Henberg said he looks forward to this opportunity.

“I love Linfield and I am happy to serve while the college identifies a leader who is worthy of following Dr. Bull,” he said. “It is important that we build upon our recent accomplishments and further strengthen our reputation for excellence.”

Henberg has identified five areas that he will focus on in the coming year:

- Bolster the college’s fundraising efforts, with a special emphasis on enhancing faculty development projects and expanding exceptional learning opportunities for students both on and off campus;
- Support the ongoing review of the curriculum and development of a strategic plan in preparation for the college’s upcoming accreditation review;
- Continue planning for new science facilities to meet the growing demand for science classes;
- Promote Linfield’s special qualities to alumni, prospective students and others;
- Keep strong ties to McMinnville, Yamhill County and the state by involvement in local activities and speaking on issues relating to higher education.

Henberg has played a major role in shaping the college’s present direction, including the adoption of a new general education curriculum in 1997. He served as chair of the Planning Council, which has developed a strategic agenda to help set priorities and guide the college’s future growth and financial development.

He has a passion for education that has been the motivation behind his career.

“I deeply believe in the liberating power of education found in the dialogue and discourse of the liberal arts,” he said.

Henberg was raised in rural Wyoming and was a first generation college student. He won a full scholarship from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, where he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor’s

degree in English literature and philosophy. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1970. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Magdalen College at Oxford University. His Ph.D. in philosophy is from the University of Texas at Austin.

Henberg taught at the University of Idaho from 1976 to 1994. He served as chair of the Department of Philosophy for six years and was the inaugural director of the University of Idaho honors program. He has earned numerous teaching awards throughout his career.

He is active in the McMinnville community and is past president of the McMinnville Kiwanis Club. He and his wife, Laurie, are outdoor enthusiasts.

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