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VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE NAMES SCOTT D. MILLER AS FOURTH PRESIDENT

NORFOLK/VIRGINIA BEACH, VA — Virginia Wesleyan College turned to one of the most experienced liberal arts college presidents in America to succeed longtime president Dr. William T. Greer, Jr., who will retire in June after 23 years as president of VWC. Dr. Scott D. Miller, president of three private liberal arts colleges during the past 24 years, was elected to succeed Dr. Greer at a special meeting of the VWC Board of Trustees held today.

Dr. Miller is in his eighth year as President and M.M. Cochran Professor of Leadership Studies at Bethany College, a nationally ranked, classical, residential liberal arts institution and West Virginia's oldest degree-granting college or university. Previously he was president of Wesley College in Delaware (1997-2007) and Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee (1991-97).

“As we look forward to strengthening the resources and enhancing the national reputation of Virginia Wesleyan, it is truly exciting to have a president of Dr. Miller’s experience and energy to lead our next phase of growth,” said Gary D. Bonnewell ’79, Chair of the Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees. “My fellow Trustees and I look forward to welcoming Dr. Miller and his wife, Annie, to our community.”

“I am honored to be chosen as the next president of Virginia Wesleyan, one of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges, an outstanding institution of The United Methodist Church, and a member of the select Old Dominion Athletic Conference,” Dr. Miller said. “After eight wonderful and rewarding years of building a stronger Bethany College, Annie and I look forward to joining the Virginia Wesleyan family. Virginia Wesleyan’s location and quality provide educational opportunities that directly support its mission and will foster future growth and progress. Dr. Greer has positioned the College for bold, forward momentum.”

In its 53-year history, Virginia Wesleyan has had just three presidents: Joseph S. Johnston (1965), Lambuth M. Clarke (1966-1992), and William T. "Billy" Greer (1992-2015).

Dr. Miller’s appointment is the culmination of a national search that began last summer after Dr. Greer announced his plans for retirement. The executive search firm of Witt/Kieffer, led by Dr. Katherine Haley, former President of Whittier College and Gettysburg College, assisted with the search. The search committee composed of VWC trustees, faculty, staff, student, and alumni representatives, sought a candidate with a strong record of leadership who was a passionate advocate of the values and ideals of the liberal arts. Trustee David L. Kaufman chaired the search.

“Virginia Wesleyan College is exceptionally fortunate to have attracted Dr. Miller, a transformational, higher education leader as its fourth president,” said Kaufman. “As Dr. Miller himself takes on his fourth college presidency, he brings to VWC significant experience, success and passion leading liberal arts institutions. We are excited about Dr. Miller’s arrival this summer to continue the outstanding leadership of Virginia Wesleyan College.”

Growing up in Pennsylvania, the son of a public school administrator, Dr. Miller has dedicated his career to the opportunities available through education. An outspoken and passionate supporter of the small, classical, liberal arts college environment that offers students personalized pathways to life and career success, Dr. Miller is a respected national leader on the challenges, opportunities, and viability of small, liberal arts, church-related colleges.

He earned his B.A. degree in communications from West Virginia Wesleyan College, worked as a journalist early in his career, and earned an M.A. from the University of Dayton, an Ed.S. from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D.
from The Union Institute and University, becoming one of the nation’s youngest college presidents at Lincoln Memorial University. Dr. Miller, 55, brings to Virginia Wesleyan a lifetime of commitment to the values of a residential, liberal arts campus in a pluralistic society, with an emphasis on teaching, service, student-faculty engagement, and lifelong learning.

Dr. Miller brought his extensive experience as a higher-education leader to Bethany College in 2007, an institution of approximately 1,100 students located on a picturesque and historic, 1,300-acre campus 45 minutes from Pittsburgh. Founded in 1840 and chartered by the Old Dominion, the College traces its origins to the establishment of Buffalo Seminary in 1818 in what was then Bethany, Virginia.

Working from a master plan, *Bethany 2020*, Dr. Miller identified five key areas of opportunity for Bethany: expansion of the residential campus community through growth of enrollment (1,100 headcount, 850 residential); strengthening of the College’s resource base through a comprehensive $52 million capital campaign, and the signing of a long-term agreement for natural gas extraction on College-owned lands; enhancement of College facilities, student services, and co-curricular programs; enrichment of students’ global learning experiences through study-abroad initiatives; and positioning of the College for even greater academic leadership and influence nationally. Under his fundraising and financial leadership, the College’s endowment has grown to $55 million.

New classes in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012 were among the largest in over 38 years. Student diversity increased from one to 14.5 percent. An additional 300 non-traditional students enrolled in specialized programs for pastors and religious leaders of Bethany’s founding denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through a re-established Buffalo Seminary; the College’s first graduate program, a Master of Arts in Teaching, was launched; and the curriculum was globalized to include partnerships with 18 international institutions.

Direct academic affiliations were negotiated or renewed with Columbia University, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Case Western Reserve University, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and Harlaxton College (England) and the Webster University network of worldwide locations. Select online classes were developed.

Dr. Miller initiated substantial facility improvements at Bethany including the Judith R. Hurl Center for Education, reopening of historic Cochran Residence Hall, the addition of artificial turf, an 1,800-square-foot locker room, an all-weather track, and stadium lights as well as a 24-hour fitness center and other improvements including integration of the Bethany library into the Bowen Central Virtual Library of Appalachia. Dr. Miller’s commitment to student-centeredness resulted in a 2014 profile of him and Bethany in “The Chronicle of Higher Education.”

During his 10-and-a-half-year tenure as president at Wesley College, Dover, DE, Dr. Miller launched and led the comprehensive 10-year master plan *Wesley College: From Here to 2010*, resulting in the construction/renovation of $40 million worth of campus facilities including a new Academic Village (student residences), an honors house, new athletic complex, tripling of enrollment, creation of a satellite campus in northern Delaware, joint acquisition of the historic Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, and the addition of several new graduate, undergraduate, and non-traditional academic programs.

He was named President-emeritus in 2007, and the Wesley National Alumni Association initiated the Dr. Scott D. Miller Leadership Scholarships. He was also honored with the naming of the entire sports complex as the Scott D. Miller Stadium.

Dr. Miller has been featured in several books in recent years including “The Entrepreneurial College President”; “The Small College Guide to Financial Health”; “Born, Not Made: The Entrepreneurial Personality”; and “The First 120 Days: What a New College President Must Do to Succeed.”

Last month he was one of 22 presidents of colleges and universities in the United States and Canada profiled in “#FollowTheLeader: Lessons in Social Media Success from #HigherEd CEOs.” Two weeks ago he was named in a national study (by Roland H. King of PhairAdvantage Communications) as one of the “Top 14 Presidents Publishing Op-eds” in 2014. Dr. Miller ranked third in the survey behind Dr. Michael Roth of Wesleyan University.

A highly sought presenter, mentor, and author on higher education topics including financial sustainability and presidential performance for national conferences and trade journals, Dr. Miller is a regular columnist for "The Huffington Post," "College Planning and Management," "Enrollment Manager," and "The State Journal." He is the author of a widely distributed e-newsletter, "The President’s Letter," a daily blog, "Dialogue," and a campus-wide morning message, "Nota Bene." He is the co-executive editor of "Presidential Perspectives," an online presidential...
thought series that has resulted in nine books, and he co-published two volumes of "President to President: Views on Technology in Higher Education." (Links to some of these publications may be found at: http://www.bethanywv.edu/about-bethany/president-and-college-leadership/speeches-and-commentary/)

He has written hundreds of articles and written or edited 11 books and seven monographs, most with his long-time co-author, Dr. Marylouise Fennell, a former college president and current senior counsel for the Washington, DC-based Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) (http://www.hyatt-fennell.com/pages/articles.html), of which Dr. Miller is a former board member and officer. He recently concluded 15 years as chair of the acclaimed CIC New Presidents Program. He is Chair of the Board of Directors of Washington, DC-based Academic Search, Inc., and the technology consortium Independent College Enterprise.

Prior to becoming a college president, he served LMU as executive vice president (1988-91) and vice president for development (1984-88). He also served as Director of College Relations and Alumni Affairs at Rio Grande College (now University) in Ohio. Known as an accomplished fundraiser, Dr. Miller has raised more than $160 million from private sources in his 24 years as a college president. During his career, he has earned a number of professional accolades including three Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) "Circle of Excellence Awards" for fundraising improvement and overall performance.

Dr. Miller has been married for 32 years to Annie Cook Miller. They have two adult daughters. Dr. Katie Miller Sanders, her husband Dr. Gary Sanders, and daughter, Addison, live in Stephens City, VA. Ashlee Miller and her fiancé, Justin, reside in Dover, DE, and will be married in June. Lifetime members of the United Methodist Church, the Millers are members of Christ United Methodist Church in Wheeling, WV.

In the Media:

Bethany College – The President and College Leadership
http://www.bethanywv.edu/about-bethany/president-and-college-leadership

The Huffington Post – Scott D. Miller, President, Bethany College
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-scott-d-miller/

Presidential Perspectives
http://www.presidentialperspectives.org/

Bethany College President, Advocate for College Leaders’ ‘Bully Pulpit,’ Third Leading National Op-Ed Writer:

Bethany College President Featured in Book on Social Media

Bethany College President Featured in Book on College Leadership

Bethany President Honored by Council of Independent Colleges

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About Virginia Wesleyan College
Named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review and listed in the top tier of national liberal arts colleges by U.S. News and World Report, Virginia Wesleyan College is a private, four-year liberal arts college focused on empowering students to become active learners and engaged citizens. In accord with the College's United Methodist heritage, Virginia Wesleyan aspires to be a supportive community that is committed to social responsibility, ethical conduct, higher learning and religious freedom. The College is located on a picturesque 300-acre campus on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Learn more about Virginia Wesleyan College at www.vwc.edu.