March 28, 2016

Howard University Community,

I would like to announce a transition in decanal leadership in the School of Education. Leslie T. Fenwick, Ph.D., who has served as the Dean of the School of Education for nearly a decade, has submitted her resignation from the deanship, effective June 30, 2016. Dr. Dawn Williams, associate professor, will serve as the Interim Dean of the School of Education while a national search is conducted.

In her new role, reporting to Provost and Chief Academic Officer Anthony Wutoh, Dr. Williams will oversee all aspects of academic and administrative affairs for the School of Education.

Dr. Williams most recently served as Chairperson of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in the School of Education, and is a well-respected and accomplished professional and academic administrator. She is a leader and expert in academic leadership training and development. Also, her commitment to servant leadership, professionalism, and academic excellence is an asset.

Dr. Williams earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She also completed M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Educational Policy Studies with dual residency in Educational Organization and Leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

Since joining Howard in 2003, Dr. Williams has authored and co-authored more than 25 articles, book reviews and book chapters that highlight the impact of K-12 macro educational policies targeted for urban school reform. Over the past decade, as Program Director or Co-Program Director, she received several grants exceeding $3.3 million funded by the National Science Foundation. Her research in the STEM and Educational Policy arena are focused on issues of access and diversity while promoting a conscious social justice agenda.

We are grateful to Dr. Leslie Fenwick for her nearly 10 years of leadership in the School of Education. Under her leadership, the School of Education grew student enrollment and the percentage of male students, increased funded grant dollars, raised the number of Fulbright Fellowship awards to faculty and doctoral students, and attained National Recognition Status of six degree programs.

During Dr. Fenwick’s tenure as dean, U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan lauded the School of Education’s Ready to Teach Program as a national exemplar in his September 2013 speech on the enduring role of HBCUs. Dr. Fenwick served as Co-Principal Investigator of this program, which was supported by a $2.1 million grant award, and designed to recruit and prepare African American men and other underrepresented groups as K-12 public schoolteachers in five cities across the nation.
Dr. Fenwick has been a highly sought after speaker, and a well-regarded higher education administrator. Prior to coming to Howard, in addition to holding administrative and tenured faculty positions at a sister-HBCU and a foundation, she held consecutive appointments as a presidentially-appointed Visiting Scholar in Education and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. An intellectual leader, one testament to this is her contribution to the best-selling book, *The Last Word: The Best Controversy and Commentary in American Education*, which also contains essays by former U.S. President Bill Clinton and noted historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, among others.

During my recent discussion with Dr. Fenwick concerning her near-decade as dean, she shared some inspirational insight. “Serving as dean has been a gift accompanied by the privilege to make a positive difference,” she said. “Howard’s inimitable legacy demands our best. The nation and its future, our stellar faculty, along with our worthy, aspiring students deserve no less from us.” Thank you Dr. Fenwick for giving us your best.

Dr. Fenwick will return to the faculty as Full Professor, and begin a sabbatical year on July 1, 2016.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Fenwick for her dedicated service and welcoming Dr. Williams as Interim Dean of the School of Education.

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
President