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Andrews Provost Accepts New Post William Richardson Named Interim Provost

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Heather Knight

Andrews provost accepts new post

William Richardson named interim provost

Andrews University provost Heather Knight accepted the invitation to serve as the next president of Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin, Calif. President Niels-Erik Andreasen announced William Richardson will serve as interim provost.

A farewell event was held for Knight on Sept. 2 in the Howard Performing Arts Center. She assumed her new responsibilities at PUC in mid-September, in time for the new academic school year.

"I know Dr. Knight not only welcomes the challenges and opportunities the presidency will offer, but also cherishes the opportunity to be closer to her and Norman's eight children in California as well as her aging parents and a first grandchild who will be born this December," says Andreasen of Knight's decision.

"I very much appreciate and treasure the three years that I have been privileged to serve as provost at Andrews University. Together—as a campus community—we have worked hard and shared many important accomplishments as we aspired to move this flagship institution from 'good to great.' I know Andrews University will

continue on this successful trajectory as members of this truly gifted learning community continue to take ownership of this vision for greatness," says Knight. "Please know that even as I accept God's call to a new assignment at Pacific Union College, Andrews University will continue to hold a very special place in my heart."

Knight came to Andrews University in August 2006 from the University of the Pacific in California where she was serving as associate provost for faculty development. During her time at Andrews University, Knight was responsible for multiple significant accomplishments. Under her leadership, the budget development process improved and financial stability was restored to Andrews, resulting in operating gains since the end of fiscal year 2007; a new strategic plan was developed and implemented; the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence was developed to centralize faculty development initiatives; a discipline-sensitive compensation plan for faculty and staff was implemented; a new Program Review process was developed; and a Sabbatical Policy for the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was approved. Knight oversaw improvements in the areas of Enrollment Management with increased enrollment and student selectivity, and launched a new merit-based Graduate Scholarship Program. During her time at Andrews, Knight hired three new deans and a new vice president for Financial Administration.

Richardson has 29 years of service to Andrews both in teaching and administration, having served as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences from 1998 until his retirement in 2006. He will guide the work of the Office of the Provost during the next six to nine months, while the University conducts a search for a permanent replacement for the position.

Richardson holds four degrees from Andrews—a Bachelor of Arts in

theology, a Master of Arts in Greek, a Master of Divinity, and a doctorate in biblical studies. He taught in the religion departments at both Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. By the time Richardson joined the Andrews University faculty in 1977, his reputation as one of the denomination's top Greek professors preceded him. Ten years after joining the faculty in the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews, he became chair of the department in



Interim provost William Richardson (left) speaks at Fall Fellowship. Niels-Erik Andreasen (right), Andrews University president, introduced Richardson before his remarks.

1987. In September 1998, he transitioned to dean of the College of Arts & Sciences where he remained until his retirement. During his tenure as dean, he played a key role in helping the University transition from the quarter to semester system. His dedication both in the classroom and as an administrator was acknowledged with a 1992 Daniel A. Augsburg Excellence in Teaching Award and a 2006 Andrews University Excellence in Service Award. He was honored with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion, for his lifetime commitment to education, at the May 2006 Andrews University undergraduate commencement service.

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