Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

I write today to share the news that I have appointed long-time West Virginia State University professor and administrator Dr. R. Charles Byers as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective July 1, 2019. Through his long service, Dr. Byers has played a significant role in the growth and development of the University and I can think of no one better to offer their steady hand of leadership as we work through this time of transition.

Dr. Byers is a 1968 graduate of WVSU earning a bachelor's degree in art education. He later earned a master's degree from The Ohio State University, and his doctorate degree from Kent State University in higher education administration. Dr. Byers spent 17 years as an associate professor of teacher education at WVSU. He served for 12 years as the Vice President for Planning and Advancement, Title III Director and Executive Director for the WVSU Research and Development Corporation before being named Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

I thank, Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya, who has been named the President of Southwest Minnesota State University, for his recommendation and support of Dr. Byers. Dr. Byers will serve as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs until a permanent replacement is hired. A national search is underway.

Best Regards,

Anthony L. Jenkins, Ph.D.
President