



Staten Island Advance

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Dr. Lily McNair named provost, VP for academic affairs at Wagner College

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Wagner College has announced the appointment of Dr. Lily McNair as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. McNair is currently associate provost of research and professor of psychology at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga. She will begin her new responsibilities at Wagner July 1.

She replaces Dr. Devorah Lieberman, who had announced she would be leaving at the end of the academic year to return to her home state of California to lead the University of La Verne, a comprehensive, independent university located 35 miles outside Los Angeles. Lieberman would be the first woman in La Verne's 119-year history to hold the position.

"Here at Wagner are delighted that Lily will be joining us as our next provost. She has a strong track record of working collaboratively with colleagues across academic departments to help them develop research opportunities and initiatives," Wagner College President Richard Guarasci said.

"Her superb leadership will continue Wagner's strong focus on student learning, civic engagement and global education."

Wagner College has become known across the country for its innovative curriculum, the Wagner Plan, which combines a foundation of classes in the liberal arts and science with hands-on learning in the community.

The Grymes Hill school has been ranked on U.S. News' list of Up and Coming colleges for each of the past two years, and has been cited for its curriculum plan by numerous publications and organizations.

A New Jersey native, Dr. McNair has served as professor of psychology on the faculties of the University of Georgia, Spelman College and the State University of New York College at New Paltz. She also spent two years at Vassar College as a clinical psychologist.

"I look forward to the opportunities my new role will offer. These are challenging times for higher education, but such times can serve as fertile ground for the emergence of creative, innovative and immensely promising ideas," she said. "I am happy to have this opportunity to contribute."

A clinical psychologist by training, Dr. McNair's research focuses on the development and evaluation of community-based interventions targeting substance use and early sexual behavior in African-American youth.

Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also is the co-editor of "Women: Images and Realities, A Multicultural Anthology," an introductory women's studies textbook in its fourth edition.

Dr. McNair received her undergraduate degree in psychology at Princeton University, and her doctorate in psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

She has served as mentor professor and advisor to nearly a dozen doctoral students in clinical psychology at the University of Georgia, where she was actively involved in both undergraduate and graduate training.