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Tuskegee University names Dr. Lily D. McNair president; first woman president in school history

by KAMARA DAUGHTRY

Tuskegee University has named Dr. Lily D. McNair the eighth president of the university after she was unanimously selected by its Board of Trustees.

McNair currently serves as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College in New York City and will become the first female president of the institution in its 136-year history.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. McNair holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Princeton University, and master's and doctoral degrees in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, according to the release from Tuskegee University.

“I was very impressed with Dr. McNair’s enthusiasm for fostering student success,” Austin Turk, graduating senior and current Student Government Association president said. “She has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentoring many students and providing academic and professional guidance. I know that Tuskegee will benefit greatly from her leadership.”

Since Tuskegee University’s founding in 1881, it has been under the leadership of seven presidents — the first of which was Booker T. Washington, who led the institution from 1881 to 1915. McNair will succeed Interim President Charlotte P. Morris, whose 35-year tenure with the university has included two terms as interim president — the most recent of which began on July 1, 2017, according to the release.

“I am honored and humbled to be selected to serve as the eighth president of Tuskegee University,” McNair said. “The historic contributions of the university’s students, faculty and alumni are well known and valued throughout the nation. I very much look forward to building on the legacy of my predecessors so that Tuskegee University will ascend to even greater heights in the years to come.”