

Loretta McGregor begins presidential year with Society for Teaching of Psychology

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

For Dr. Loretta McGregor, teaching psychology is not just a job, it's a passion.

For more than 30 years, McGregor has shared that passion, not just through her classes at Arkansas State University, but also her involvement with the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

She is embarking on a new challenge, becoming national president for the upcoming year after serving a term as president-elect of the professional organization.

"The Society helps educators by providing resources to help them become better teachers, provides a professional identity for networking, connects educators at all levels, and champions initiatives that support educators," McGregor said.

She joined the A-State faculty in 2005 as chair of the Department of Psychology and Counseling, and served in that position for seven years. She is a full professor of psychology.

Her involvement with the 3,600-member Society offers an opportunity for her to share her experience and insight with fellow professionals.

"Each president is expected to adopt a theme that will highlight their area of interest during their tenure in office," McGregor explained. "My theme is 'Cultivating the next generation of psychology educators.' I am interested in encouraging current students to consider becoming an educator and teaching psychology at the high school, community college or university level."

She said she also is interested in mentoring early career psychologists, who are also educators, by providing

them with the tools they will need to become successful in their chosen careers.

The president is the face of the Society and represents it in public and at national meetings of the American Psychological Association.

"The president serves as the primary conduit through which the two organizations communicate," she continued. "The president presides over meetings of the executive committee and oversees the discussions, deliberations and votes of the executive committee."

Pointing to the group's value, she said the Society has sponsored the creation of various resources that have revolutionized the teaching of psychology, at all academic levels. She was an invited participant in the Society's landmark 2008 National Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology, which provided

findings and recommendations that were published by the American Psychological Association in a book it called a "blueprint" for the future of the discipline of psychology.

"In addition, the Society has sponsored the creation of a syllabi database that provides sample syllabi for a variety of psychology courses," McGregor also said. "This database has proven beneficial to educators who are new to the teaching of psychology, those who are new to teaching a particular course, or those who simply desire to refresh their course syllabus."

Following completion of her presidential year, McGregor, who holds a Ph.D. in human factors psychology from Wichita State University, will serve the society another year as past-president and member of its executive committee. During this time, she will continue to share with her fellow



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Loretta McGregor, professor of psychology

professionals the passion she holds for teaching psychology.

A-State begins search for Dean of College of Veterinary Medicine

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Arkansas State University has begun advertising for applicants and nominees for the next dean of its proposed College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

The dean will be chief administrative officer for the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), responsible for its missions in teaching, research and service. Primary duties will include oversight for all academic programs associated with the CVM, along with management of budget and other resources.

Applicants must possess an earned Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree or the equivalent, a demonstrated and robust research agenda, and a distinguished record of visionary leadership and excellence in administration.

"We will be looking closely at those candidates who can demonstrate a record of commitment to fostering collaborative activities that lead to productive relationships with

alumni, professional veterinary organizations, practicing veterinarians, and other public and private stakeholders," stated Dr. Len Frey, co-chair of the dean search committee. Frey is executive vice chancellor for the Division of Finance and Administration and chief operating officer at A-State.

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approved the university's plan for the veterinary school at its July 2023 meeting. Plans call for up to 40 new faculty and staff positions dedicated to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program.

The plan approved by the state board also includes the program requirements and planned courses. A-State's next steps involve securing approval by the national accrediting agencies associated with veterinary colleges, including The Higher Learning Commission and the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, who

will be making their initial consultative visit this July.

"The CVM appointee will be the 11th dean reporting to the Office of the Provost and is expected to be an active member of the Academic Deans Council," said Dr. Calvin White Jr., executive vice chancellor and university provost. Adding, "the successful candidate will also work closely with community and government partners, faculty and staff to establish and implement the mission and strategic plan that will guide the teaching, research and service activities of the new College of Veterinary Medicine. I have charged the committee to find a visionary leader who understands the monumental undertaking of establishing the state's first college of veterinary medicine, which is truly an inflection point in the history of our institution."

As A-State has moved toward establishing the CVM, founding dean Dr. Glen Hoffsis has continued to guide the institution through the various

stages, including planning for faculty, curriculum and facilities.

"Thus far, Arkansas State has progressed steadily toward meeting the accreditation and associated steps necessary before the veterinary school can open," Hoffsis noted. "I have been very pleased with the level of commitment and support I've seen for A-State's proposed plans."

Both Dean Hoffsis and consultant Jim Lloyd will continue to support the new dean to assure a smooth and successful leadership transition.

The AHECB decision in July was praised by Chancellor Todd Shields as a key step toward the successful establishment of the veterinary school, which will make it possible for Arkansans to remain in state to earn their veterinary degree and establish a practice.

"Arkansas State is creating the CVM to serve the many needs for veterinary services in our state and the wider region," Shields added. "A-State traces its origins to 1909 when it was

established by the Arkansas General Assembly as the First District Agricultural School. Throughout our history, this institution has played a vital role in meeting society's needs through the agricultural programs. The CVM will be the next major step in this mission for Arkansas State University."

The search committee is co-chaired by Dr. Travis Marsico, vice provost for research, innovation and discovery and executive director of the Arkansas Biosciences Institute.

In addition to Frey, Hoffsis and Marsico, other members of the search committee for the next dean are Dr. Jennifer Bouldin, dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics; Dr. Mickey LaTour, dean of the College of Agriculture; Dr. Jim Lloyd, senior consultant for Animal Health Economics, LLC; Arianne Pait, assistant professor of communication disorders; Dr. Everett Rogers, president of Jonesboro Family Pet Hospital and president of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical

Association; Dr. Edward Salo, associate professor of history and president of the A-State Faculty Senate; and Dr. Lonnie Williams, vice chancellor for the Division of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement.

A tentative opening date of fall 2026 is the institution's goal, provided all preparations and regulatory steps can be completed before then.

Nationwide there is a growing shortage of DVMs to fill a growing demand for services. In the state of Arkansas alone, the number of households with pets has reached almost one million. Meanwhile, a generation of companion animal care veterinarians who have served those families are reaching, and many beyond, retirement age. The more than 12,500 farms across the state have growing need for vet services, as well as Arkansas' expanding food production industry.

To learn more about the position, one can visit <https://AState.edu/CVMDeanSearch>.

MORGAN, CONTINUED

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Arkansas State in 1992 and a Master of Business Administration degree from A-State in 1998. He also holds a degree from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking from Southern Methodist University.

Morgan is married to Caroline Bishop Morgan, who received a Master of Communication Disorders degree in speech-language pathology from A-State and practices at the Valley View School District. They have two children, Luke and Kate Morgan.

Black business district of Jonesboro is topic for Black History Month event

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

As part of the celebrations for Black History Month, Arkansas State University Museum will host an interactive panel discussion about the once-thriving Black business district of Jonesboro.

The event, planned for Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 until 6 p.m., will take a look at the more than 50 successful businesses that were located in Jonesboro from the late 1800s until the mid-1960s.

Attendees will learn about local African American

entrepreneurs and their business endeavors during a presentation by Jill Kary, curator of education for A-State Museum.

The event will also feature a lively discussion led by African American panelists, Norma Ferrell, Leroy Johnson and Roger McKinney.

With their heritage deeply rooted in Jonesboro, the panelists will share their memories of the once-thriving Black business district and will welcome audience questions and discussion.

"From the 1880s to the

1960s, segregation laws in Arkansas separated the races of Jonesboro," says Kary. "Still, Black businesses, schools, and the brave African American community itself flourished."

The event is free and open to the public.

"We invite everyone to attend and participate in this timely panel conversation and discover intriguing local Black History," added Kary.

For more information, contact Kary via email at jkary@AState.edu or by calling 870-972-2074.

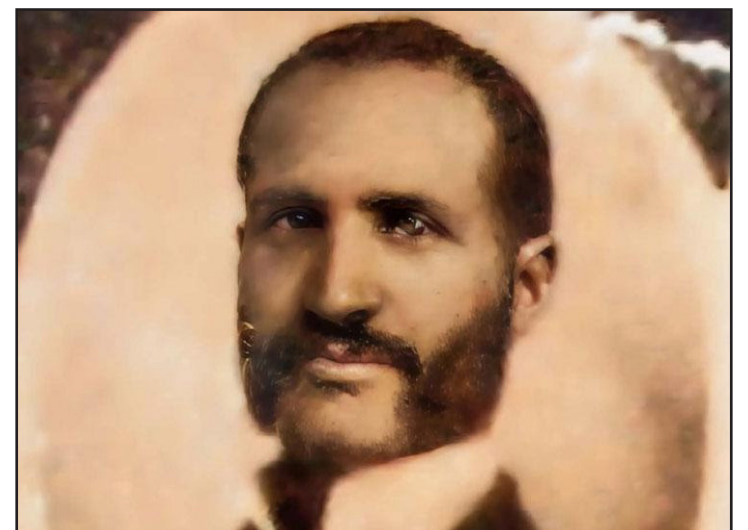


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Dr. Edward Lincoln Ezell, Black physician who served Jonesboro's African American community from 1906-1932.