



RUST COLLEGE

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RUST COLLEGE HIRES NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS – Rust College President Ivy R. Taylor is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Rolundus R. Rice as Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

“Dr. Rice is a gifted and energetic scholar whose nontraditional career has given him an understanding of high impact practices for organizational planning and execution in higher education. Over his career he has developed successful strategies for teaching, recruitment, and retention in a variety of higher education settings. We believe that he is well equipped to lead Academic Affairs at Rust College and to help us strengthen our curriculum and expand partnerships that will be beneficial for students and our dedicated faculty,” said President Taylor.

Dr. Rice has established a strong and steady record of leadership, collegiality, and progressive innovation. His diverse set of experiences span the classroom and operations management at the two-year and four-year levels at Predominately White Institutions (PWIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He has served in essential roles including: Associate Professor of History; Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at Talladega College; Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives at Lincoln University. Dr. Rice has also held cabinet-level appointments during his respective tenures as Chief Diversity Officer and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and

Enrollment Management. He is currently serving as the Central Region Director of Adult Education with the Alabama Community College System.

Dr. Rice has had a long-standing commitment to research and scholarship. He served as the Special Assistant to Dr. Bernice A King where he supervised Research, Communications and Archives at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia. His research and publishing agenda are focused squarely on the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Rice's forthcoming book, *Hosea Williams: A Lifetime of Defiance and Protest*, will be published by the University of South Carolina Press in December.

As Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rice will be responsible for overseeing development and implementation of academic strategic planning as part of the overall institutional strategic planning; supervising all matters relating to curriculum and instruction of the College; establish priorities and plans for program development, faculty recruitment and development; and serve as SACS liaison and lead efforts related to SACS accreditation requirements.

From GED to Ph.D., Rice has had an inspiring journey into higher education. Earning his GED in 2002, Rice was determined to overcome the odds by passionately pursuing his purpose. Rice went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from DeVry University; a Master of Arts in History from Alabama State University; and his Ph.D. degree in History from Auburn University. He was the first GED recipient to earn the Ph.D. since Auburn was founded in 1856. Dr. Rice's life mission has been to recruit, retain and graduate students from disadvantaged communities as his story of triumph and perseverance resonates with many young people today.

Dr. Rice is married to the former Dana Lee. They have four beautiful children: Madison, Marley, Rolundus II and Remington.

Dr. Rice will begin his role at Rust College on July 1, 2021.

About Rust College

Rust College is a historically, Black, co-educational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to offer quality programs in business, education, humanities, science and math, and social science to prepare students for leadership and service in the global society.

Located in Holly Springs, MS, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915 or visit www.rustcollege.edu.

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