FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 24, 2022

Mary LeSueur
Director of Public Relations
Office of Public Relations
662-252-8000, ext. 4915
662-544-0950, Cell
mlesueur@rustcollege.edu

Rust College Alum Receives Telly Award for Health Affairs Featured Video

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS – Rust College 2002 graduate, Vabren L. Watts, Ph.D, was the recipient of the Bronze 2022 Telly Award for his featured video “Racism & Health in US Medicine, A Conversation with Harriet A. Washington” by Health Affairs, the leading journal of health policy thought and research.

This featured video coincides with the release of "Racism & Health," the February 2022 issue of Health Affairs. Alongside the publication of this special issue, it was important for Health Affairs to provide historical context about the impact of racism on health to inform the research published in the issue. In a tweet on Twitter October 12, Watts said, “My first Telly Award! It was for @Health_Affairs "Racism & Health in US Medicine: A Conversation with Harriet A. Washington." Trying to join the ranks of my fellow @RustCollege1866 alum @KarvisJones and get an Emmy (twice)!”

In "Racism & Health in US Medicine," Harriet A. Washington discusses the history of racism in medicine and research with Vabren Watts, Health Affairs’ director of health equity, and Aletha Maybank, chief health equity officer and senior vice president of the American Medical
Association. Myths about the scientific racism is addressed in the video. “As Dorothy Roberts pointed out so brilliantly,” Washington started, “racism created race, not the other way around.”

Join the conversation on Twitter and stay up to date by following #RacismAndHealth. Watch “Racism & Health in US Medicine, A Conversation with Harriet A. Washington” on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=YVPFUlRAgUU.

To learn more about the Telly Awards, visit tellyawards.com.

For more information on the Health Affairs journal, visit https healthaffairs.org/about.

About Rust College

Rust College is the oldest most prestigious historically black college in Mississippi founded in 1866 by the Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Offering degree programs in business, education, humanities, science and mathematics, and social science, Rust College equips and inspires students for excellence and service in their communities and throughout the world. Located in Holly Springs, MS, just 35 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

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

###