



# OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

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For Immediate Release

## **Oakwood University's President Overwhelmingly Re-elected for Third Term**

HUNTSVILLE, AL – On June 16, 2022, the Corporate Members of the Oakwood University Corporation met at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. The Oakwood University Board of Trustees overwhelmingly re-elected Dr. Leslie N. Pollard as President of Oakwood University, extending his term through June 2026.

President Pollard and his administrative team have prayerfully and skillfully led the institution successfully through the COVID-19 pandemic, a cyber security attack on the institution, and many local, national, and global challenges including social injustice, inflation, and declining higher education enrollment. Despite these challenges, Oakwood University has experienced growth and success in enrollment, new graduate programs, financial stability, increased support of alumni and friends, and community outreach and service partnerships.

During the past five years, the University opened the Oakwood Farms Market in 2020, and the Community Health Action Center in 2021. Through a partnership with the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, renovations were made to the historic Peterson Hall.

“At a time when higher education, particularly faith-based education, is challenged by turbulent crosswinds,” said Dr. Pollard, “Oakwood continues to stand as a tower of academic excellence, spiritual leadership, and social consciousness. My deepest thanks are extended to our talented administrators, our dedicated faculty, our committed staff, and our inspiring students.”

“We are grateful for the tremendous leadership Dr. Pollard has exemplified under extremely challenging circumstances such as COVID 19, cyberattack, and negotiating the turbulent waters of Higher Education in an ever-changing world and landscape. We are thankful to God for how His hand has guided this institution over the last several years,” said G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division and also chair of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees.

Guided by the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, President Pollard shared that “Across the next five years, we will build our students a state-of-the-art health and wellness center. We will launch cutting-edge academic programs and expand our graduate-level offerings, and we will continue

our moves toward reducing institutional dependency on tuition as a means of primary revenue," said Dr. Pollard.

President Pollard concluded, " I am deeply grateful to continue serving my alma mater and to the Corporate Members, and Board of Trustees for their support." He praised the Oakwood University employees for their dedication, flexibility, and hard work to serve students' academic, financial, spiritual, and other needs each day. He frequently quotes one of his favorite African proverbs, "If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." Dr. Pollard extended his gratitude to the students of Oakwood University by saying, " With over 50 countries represented at Oakwood, what a privilege to serve some of the finest students in the world! Students and their success are at the center of our joy, motivation, and purpose."

Oakwood University's newest slogan for recruitment is "Success has an Address: Oakwood University."

Pollard is the 11<sup>th</sup> president to serve at the only Seventh-day Adventist HBCU (Historically Black College and University).

[President's Institutional Report – 2017-2022](#)

[Video of the President's Report](#) (*Report begins at 8:56*)

[Corporate Members Meeting Photos](#)

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Oakwood University serves over 1400 students and manages three industries, including the Oakwood Farms Market, on its 1,185 acres of land. The private liberal arts institution is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, offering its students 16 academic departments across five schools, 58 undergraduate degrees, and four graduate degree programs. Oakwood University is the nation's 11th-ranked producer of undergraduate black applicants to medical schools and the only university or HBCU among the top 20 universities in the state of Alabama, according to the Association for American Medical Colleges.