

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
UPDATE

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SPECIAL ISSUE

REGENTS NAME DR. CAROL SURLES AS NEW PRESIDENT



At a public meeting Wednesday (May 11), members of the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents unanimously elected Dr. Carol Surles the university's ninth president. Surles, who is currently vice president for administration and business affairs at California State University-Hayward, is the first African American and third woman to serve as chief executive officer at the nation's largest university primarily for women. Jayne Lipe, chair of the Board of Regents, was authorized by the board to negotiate a contract of employment with Dr. Surles.

Lipe and Diana Marshall, regent and chair of the presidential search advisory committee, said, "We had three strong finalists who all possessed exceptional qualifications for president of Texas Woman's University, and we are grateful for their interest and participation in the search process."

"The regents believe that Dr. Surles will bring a wealth of experience to Texas Woman's University. She has held many positions of responsibility—from administration to fiscal affairs to human resources—that will enable her to serve the constituents of this institution in many capacities. Dr. Surles is committed to diversity, as we are at Texas Woman's University, and to the importance of teaching our students about the reality of a global economy and the multicultural world that they will enter," Lipe said. "We look forward to a productive and exciting future for Texas Woman's University with Dr. Surles as TWU's new president," added Marshall.

The president's position was vacated last fall when Dr. Shirley Chater was appointed commissioner of the Social Security Administration by President Bill Clinton. Dr. Patricia Sullivan, vice president for academic affairs, will continue to serve as interim president until Surles begins her tenure. The finalists visited with the Board of Regents at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Hyatt Regency Hotel, where the vote was taken and the appointment was announced by Lipe.

Lipe added that campus visits by each candidate enabled the university community, as well as leaders from the Denton, Dallas and Houston areas, to meet the finalists and have a voice in the selection process. "We wanted the entire university community at all of our locations to have a chance to meet and visit with each candidate. The presidential search advisory committee played a key role in selecting the finalists and assisting the Board of Regents with the final steps in the selection process," said Lipe.

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A 14-member search advisory committee comprising TWU regents, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community representatives began meeting in December with the assistance of Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm that was hired last fall by the TWU Foundation to help with the national search. The committee narrowed the list of more than 80 active applicants to 10 in March before making their final recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Surles has been vice president for administration and business affairs at CSU-Hayward since 1992. In that capacity, she is responsible for a \$77 million budget, human resources, physical planning and operation, institutional research and business affairs.

Previously, Surles was visiting administrator-in-residence in the CSU chancellor's office (Hayward campus); vice president for academic affairs and professor of management at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss.; and vice chancellor for administration and associate professor of management at the University of Michigan in Flint, Mich. Surles holds a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, a master's degree in counseling from Chapman College in Orange, Calif., and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.

TWU is a comprehensive public university primarily for women with an enrollment of more than 9,700 students. A teaching and research institution, the university emphasizes the liberal arts and specialized or professional studies. TWU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.