



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

DATE: October 5, 2018

TO: PVAMU Campus Community

FROM: President Ruth J. Simmons

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Fred E. Washington as Prairie View A&M University's Vice President and Director of Athletics (AD), effective immediately.

As Vice President and Director of Athletics, Fred will serve as a member of the President's Cabinet. He will be responsible for providing strategic leadership and oversight for an eighteen-sport NCAA Division I FCS intercollegiate athletics program. He will oversee planning, fiscal affairs, staffing, fundraising and promotions, athletics facilities and regulatory compliance with respect to intercollegiate athletics. Additionally, he will work closely with multiple internal and external constituencies to advance the University's objectives and goals. In this position, Fred will supervise a full and part-time staff of approximately 80 people and manage an annual budget of an estimated \$12 million.

A proud PVAMU alumnus, Fred received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting in 1992 as well as a Master of Business Administration in Management in 1996 and a Master of Arts in Community Development in 2016.

In his twenty-seventh year of service to the university, he served 23 years in the United States Army Reserve and retired with a rank of Major. After serving in numerous capacities, he became Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration and in 2005, he was appointed Vice President for Auxiliary Services and Administration.

From 2008-2013, Fred served in the dual roles of Vice President for Auxiliary Services and Athletic Director. As AD, he amassed a host of accomplishments including: re-energizing student body engagement at game day events; earning 14 Championships; increasing sponsorship from 60k in 2008 to 445k by 2013; and winning the first Commissioner's Cup in University history. Throughout his tenure, Fred demonstrated effective and ethical leadership.

I appointed Fred as the Interim AD because of his previous experience and success as the university's Athletic Director. Fred, always willing to serve the university in any capacity in which he is needed, graciously accepted the interim appointment and I launched a nationwide search for the permanent Vice President and Director of Athletics.

Vice President for Business Affairs, Corey Bradford, chaired the AD Search Committee, comprised of a cross section of faculty, staff, students and alumni. The committee was charged with identifying a candidate who had an exceptional understanding of the NCAA and its governing rules, a commitment to PVAMU, a passion for student athletes and a vision for moving our athletics program forward. With more than 75 applicants, the search committee invited several to campus for interviews. Among the finalists, Fred stood out as a true leader, capable of taking charge of our beloved Panthers. He has the breadth of senior leadership experience and an in depth knowledge of how to manage successfully a first class, NCAA Division I athletics department. In the final analysis, the committee unanimously supported his permanent appointment.

I want to thank the search committee for their diligent service. I ask the community to join me in congratulating Fred in his new role.

Comments from Committee

“Our main goal was to find the best qualified candidate for the AD job who we truly believed can best move the PVAMU Athletic program to greater heights. The search committee looked far and wide across the country - yet the best candidate was right here, ready to take up the challenge. Fred has a proven track record of helping all sport teams win championships. I am confident that he has the passion, commitment to excellence, and business acumen to effectively make PVAMU among the best athletic programs in the nation,” explained Search Committee Chair, Corey S. Bradford.

AD Search Committee Member, PVAMU sports legend and Olympic Medalist, Fred Newhouse commented, “I am extremely pleased that Fred Washington has accepted this appointment by our President, Ruth Simmons. Fred was selected from 75 plus outstanding applicants from all over the country. This is another testament to the caliber of people produced by Prairie view A&M University. We thank him sincerely for his past contributions and congratulate him for earning this role as we continue to make our university even better. “

"After the long process of reviewing extremely competitive applications, I'm positive that we have chosen the best fit for PVAMU and our growing athletics program. As a committee, we looked to recommend to President Ruth, persons who would take our athletic program to another level, not only in fundraising, but in academics, game day experience, compliance, and most importantly - being committed long term to PV. I'm confident that Mr. Washington will do just that," expressed Student Government Association President and AD Search Committee Member, Eze Maduforo.

Fred Washington has shown himself to be a great leader, alumnus and dedicated to the success of our university. He was very instrumental in the planning and acquisition of the great facilities we all enjoy today. Our alumni family should be proud to have one of their own who loves this university and will be relentless in obtaining greater success for our student athletes, coaches and fans,” said Billy Davis, director of Alumni Affairs.

According to Eric J. Dooley, PVAMU Head Football Coach “Fred has made a great impression to our athletic program in the past. He is dedicated and committed to the University and to its Students. I’m very confident that the athletic department at PVAMU, under the leadership of Fred Washington, will move to new heights.”