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DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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New President Selected at Durham Tech

(DURHAM, N.C.) During a three-hour meeting of Durham Technical Community College's Board of Trustees held yesterday (Sept. 26), the Board voted unanimously to select Dr. Bill Ingram as the college's next president. Dr. Ingram has served as Durham Tech's senior vice president and chief instructional officer since 1995. He joined the college in 1983 and has served as director of Continuing Education, director of Off-Campus Programs and the Weekend College, and dean of Technical and Vocational Programs before being named vice president.

The Board is forwarding Dr. Ingram's name to the State Board of Community Colleges, and his appointment will become effective January 1, 2008, contingent upon State Board approval during its October 19 meeting, according to Dr. Mary Ann Peter, chair of the college's Board.

"I am honored and delighted that the Board of Trustees has chosen me to be presented to the State Board of Community Colleges as the fourth president of Durham Technical Community College," said Dr. Ingram, after being contacted by the Board chair. "I am also humbled to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr., who has been an exemplary leader for this institution and in this community for over a quarter century. I hope I can add to his legacy, which is found in the tens of thousands of residents of Durham and Orange counties whose lives have been made better by Durham Technical Community College."

Dr. Wynn will retire from Durham Tech after 27 years as president and a total of 30 years of service with the college. "I am extremely pleased and proud that the Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Bill Ingram as my successor. He has been a wonderful colleague and a consummate professional during the many years we have worked together, and he is well-prepared to lead the college to new levels of success," said Dr. Wynn, who will become a vice president at Duke University after his retirement from Durham Tech.

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As Dr. Ingram prepares to assume the college's leadership, he is looking ahead to a Durham County bond request for Durham Tech as well as helping the college prepare for the opening of an Orange County Campus. "This is an exciting time for this institution, as we make our case to the voters of Durham County for the upcoming bond issue for campus improvements and facilities expansion and as we prepare to open our Orange County Campus in the Waterstone development between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough," he said.

Dr. Ingram stated that the Board has entrusted him with an "awesome responsibility" that he cannot carry out alone. "Fortunately, Durham Tech has the most qualified and dedicated faculty and staff of any community college in the state or in the nation, and I know we will work together to promote student learning and to foster community growth and development. These are our most important tasks," he said.

As part of the selection process, Dr. Ingram was one of three finalists narrowed down from five semi-finalists who participated in day-long interview activities at the college. Durham Tech's presidency was advertised nationally, resulting in 68 applicants, the largest applicant pool of any other community college's president search in recent years. As part of the interview process, each semi-finalist met with student, faculty, and staff groups at the college during open forum question and answer sessions. After the sessions, the Board gave all college participants an opportunity to provide anonymous confidential input in writing about their impressions of each candidate. In addition to the open forum sessions, semi-finalists were interviewed by the Board and representatives of the college's faculty, staff, administrators, and students.

The process for employing community college presidents includes submitting the finalists' names, application materials, and references to N.C. Community College System President Martin Lancaster and the State Board of Community Colleges for review. This review took place for finalist consideration during the State Board's Sept. 21 meeting. Durham Tech's Board heard feedback from the System office and State Board review during the Board's meeting held Sept. 26 before voting on the next leader of the college.

Dr. Ingram, 54, received a bachelor's degree in English from Ohio Wesleyan University. He received a master's degree as well as his doctorate in Adult and Community College Education from N.C. State University. Ingram and his wife, Ann, have lived in the Triangle for 26 years and are the parents of a daughter, Christine Elizabeth, a student at UNC-Greensboro, and a son, David, a freshman student at Brevard College.