

B-CU Report



October 29, 2009

BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENDS LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT TRUDIE KIBBE REED

At its Oct. 22-23, 2009 meeting, the B-CU Board of Trustees gave the administration of President Trudie Kibbe Reed a hearty endorsement in the form of a unanimous resolution of support and commendation. If her accomplishments over the last five years are any indication of future progress, the best is yet to come.

New buildings and academic programs, record enrollment, research grants and faculty and students recognized for excellence – all are signs of an institution moving in a positive direction.

But, Dr. Reed doesn't claim the credit for herself. When Dr. Reed arrived on the campus of then-Bethune-Cookman College five years ago, she vowed to be a quarterback and lead the Bethune-Cookman team to new heights as an institution, within the community, and on a global scale. Now, she thanks the stakeholders who have joined her team – everyone from trustees to the board of counselors, women's

advisory council, the associate board of trustees, all the way to the ground maintenance crew and housekeeping staff – as the driving force behind the continued success.

"I would love to take credit for all the positive things which have occurred but I simply can't," Dr. Reed laughed. "The Board of Trustees and faithful alumni caught the vision, jumped onboard and now the fruits of their labors are being realized. I can't adequately express the gratitude I have for the alumni, trustees, and stakeholders of the Great Bethune-Cookman University. Under the past leadership of Trustee-Chairman Dr. Irving Matthews and the leadership of current Chairman Dr. Larry Handfield, we are continuing in the spirit of the founder's dedication to excellence."

From the beginning, Dr. Reed has led the team full steam ahead in this pursuit of excellence and growth for the institution. One needs only to look around campus



Trudie Kibbe Reed, Ed.D.
B-CU President

to see the changes over the last four years as new land is acquired for development, old buildings have been renovated and new buildings have been erected.

Most recently, the University held ceremonial groundbreaking ceremonies for two new buildings – the Larry R. Handfield Athletic Training Center and the Lee Rhyant Residential Life Center, both of which are fully paid for. Both buildings are also named after B-CU alumni-trustees, supporting Dr.

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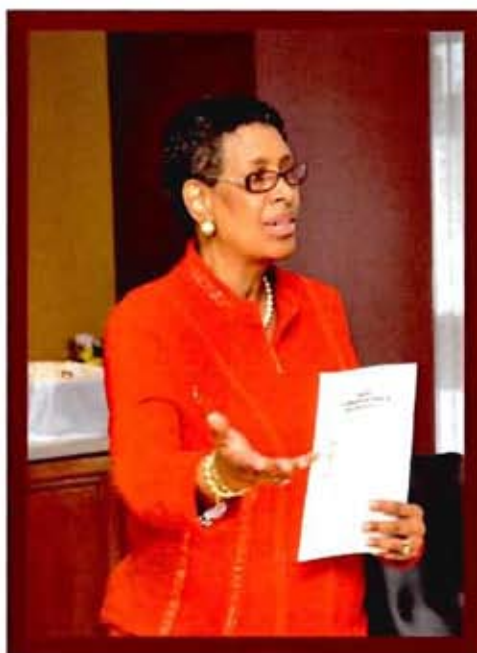
Reed's contention that the Wildcat alumni are instrumental to the long-term success of the university.

It was the alumni who raised most of the \$4.6 million for the Athletic Training Center, with regional alumni chapters competing in a "chapter challenge" contest. The new building will provide B-CU's student-athletes with a new strength training and conditioning center along with other facilities to support their efforts on the playing field.

And, it is a commitment to today's students - the future Wildcat alums - that brought about the Lee Rhyant Residential Life Center. With the highest enrollment in the institution's history comes a need for additional student housing. The \$6 million center will house 270 students in three residence wings, and will come complete with a café on the first floor and common areas featuring study, lounge and classroom space as well as laundry facilities.

Funding for the new residence hall came from a combination of targeted fundraising and a financial stewardship program that has allowed the University to create a dedicated building fund.

Future nurses are already utilizing the new L. Gale Lemerand School of Nursing Building, which includes state-of-the-art technology-equipped classrooms, skills labs and a wellness center. Other buildings, which now grace B-CU's campus, include the Center for Civic Engagement and the Alexis Pugh and Eugene Zimmerman Scholarship Houses. All of these were constructed under the leadership of Dr. Reed.



Even with this building boom, Dr. Reed's commitment to sound financial stewardship means the books are balanced. The University has posted a balanced budget for the past five years with clean audits since she took the helm. Through her leadership, the endowment of the university nearly doubled - from \$24 to \$44 million - before the economic downturn. Even in these troubled times, development continues. Most recently, Dr. Reed announced the successful fundraising of \$1.1 million in 48 hours.

Beyond buildings, Dr. Reed and her administration have re-energized the founder's legacy for the 21st century, focusing on academic excellence and service to the community. In 2007, the school that was founded with \$1.50, five little girls, and faith in God, attained university status. B-CU now offers a master's degree in transformative leadership and other master's degree programs are under development. A new undergraduate major in integrated environmental

science was launched earlier this year, and B-CU's science programs recently received \$300,000 in federal grants. Dr. Reed salutes Dean Herbert Thompson and Dr. Michael Reiter for this excellent accomplishment.

US News & World Report named B-CU one of the top Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) in the nation, according to rankings published in the 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges." B-CU moved up one position from its 2009 ranking to #32 on the top tier list. Institutions are rated based on a specialized HBCU peer survey combined with statistical data including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Through programs like the Black Male Think Tank and the President's Beachside Chats, students learn to play an active role in their education. They look outward with efforts like the Black Male Explorers Program, which provides support to young black males in the community, and the Odessa Chambliss Wellness Center, the nurse-managed community health center.

With five years behind her, Dr. Reed is now looking ahead: "We now look toward the next five years and our new strategic plan. Together with unity and the backing of our alumni, Board of Trustees, supporters, and stakeholders we shall see B-CU reach further than ever before."

Upcoming Additions to Campus...

LARRY R. HANDFIELD ATHLETIC TRAINING CENTER



Location:	International Speedway Blvd. at Lincoln Ave.
Square footage:	16,378 square feet indoors (plus 6,338 square feet outdoor space)
Special features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Strength/conditioning center-Rehabilitation equipment, hydrotherapy, x-ray and treatment rooms-Technology-equipped team meeting rooms-Student-athlete technology center-Wildcat Hall of Fame atrium area
Cost:	\$4.6 million

LEE RHYANT RESIDENTIAL LIFE CENTER



Location:	Martin Luther King Blvd. south of George W. Engram Blvd.
Square footage:	-62,175 square feet total designed in three wings: -Two wings will be 20,067 square feet; one wing will be 11,481 square feet.
Total beds:	270 student beds, suite-style
Special features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Café area on first floor-Common areas including classroom, study, lounge and laundry areas-Three guest suites for use by parents, visiting faculty and others
Cost:	\$6 million