

# LeMoyne-Owen COLLEGE

**LEADERSHIP. OPPORTUNITY. CHANGE.**

**April 13, 2018** – LeMoyne-Owen College’s Dr. Ralph Calhoun and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s Dr. Wendy M. Likes penned their signatures to a historic agreement Friday morning that will give LOC students an opportunity to seek careers in nursing.

The Partnership Enrollment Program guarantees admission of qualified LeMoyne-Owen graduates into the UTHSC College of Nursing’s Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The signing occurred in the Alma C. Hanson Student Center and was witnessed by faculty, staff and students.

Likes, dean of the nursing college, and Charlie Folsom Jr., director of LOC’s UNCF Career Pathways Initiative, said the agreement came together after more than a year of planning and discussions.

Likes said LOC students can sign an agreement prior to their graduation from the college, which assures that they meet the requirements to enter the nursing program, including completing the necessary courses.

She said the accelerated nursing program is a one-year course of study that allows students to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

“We hope they (students in the program) develop a relationship with the university that leads to them earning a doctorate. More than half of our students transition into doctorate programs.”

She added that nursing and healthcare providers are great careers, especially since there is a shortage of skilled bedside and neonatal nurses, and primary-care providers.

Calhoun, LOC Special Assistant to the President for Academic Administration, said, “This partnership is going to give our students the opportunity to focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematic) careers, especially in nursing, as well as the HBCU experience they desire.”

He added, “It also moves us into a deeper area of program expansion, and that aligns with our president's vision.”



LOC's Dr. Ralph Calhoun (left) and UTHSC's Dr. Wendy M. Likes, pen their signatures to a historic agreement Friday morning that will give LOC students an opportunity to seek careers in nursing. They are surrounded by students, faculty and staff.

