



MEDIA NOTICE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LeMoyne-Owen College Names Anderson as New Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach

MEMPHIS, TN (April 9, 2009) -- LeMoyne-Owen College President Johnnie B. Watson today announced that Head Women's Basketball Coach William B. Anderson will take over as the new Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach of the Magician Basketball program. Coach Anderson, an alumnus, who stepped into the role of Interim Athletic Director a year ago, is already quite familiar with LeMoyne-Owen College's Athletic program. He served as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach for three years; served as coach of both the Men and Women's Tennis programs for eight years; and has served as Head Coach of the Lady Magicians' for nine years. Coach Anderson was chosen by a volunteer committee comprised of community leaders, alumni, faculty, and student representatives. "In my view, Coach Anderson was the best choice because he has not only demonstrated his loyalty to LeMoyne-Owen College, to our Athletic Program, and to our athletes," said President Watson. "But, Coach Anderson has the valuable experience of having served as the longest member of the Athletic Program.

He is familiar with the students, and we believe that he will be able to motivate them to be successful on and off the court; be able to grow all of the sports in the College's Athletic Program, and encourage good players to join the Magician team."

Coach Anderson takes over as the Magicians are on a high note having won the SIAC Men's Basketball Conference Tournament just over a month ago in Birmingham, Alabama in a match against Lane College. "We plan to take the Men's Basketball program to one of the elite Division II programs nationally," said Coach Anderson. "We want to not only win our Conference, but compete in the NCAA National Tournament and eventually win the Division II NCAA National Championship. Right now, we have four returning players, so we will have to rebuild our team which we will be able to do quickly because of the talent that we have here in Memphis. For example, out of nine players this year, seven were from Memphis. We have many Junior college prospects as well as high school standouts that we would love to attract over here." Anderson also believes that many students will be attracted to LeMoyne-Owen because of the College's basketball history. "LeMoyne-Owen is known as a basketball powerhouse and for producing players like Verties Sales who coaches now at Southwest TN Community College and other area coaches who graduated from here. We've proven that we not only produce great players, but LeMoyne-Owen College produces great coaches who are heading programs right here in the region. So, we hope that our former student-athletes send their players over here where we know how to help them achieve success on and off the court. "

Coach Anderson was chosen because of his understanding of the Athletic Program mission as well as the mission of the College. “I think that together, the College and the Athletic Program will deliver a quality educational experience for the entire student population. That is our overall goal,” he said.

LeMoyne-Owen College provides a transformative experience educating students for urban-focused leadership, scholarship, service and professional careers.

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