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**CONTACT: Elaine Y. Sanford, Public Information Officer - 901.292.3943  
Dr. Johnnie B. Watson, President, LeMoyne-Owen College 901.435.1676**

### **Watson to be Installed as LeMoyne-Owen College's Eleventh President Shirley Raines, U of M President to do Honors**

MEMPHIS, TN (November 24, 2008) -- The LeMoyne-Owen College Board of Trustees proudly announces the Installation Ceremony for Johnnie B. Watson as the eleventh President of LeMoyne-Owen College. "Johnnie Watson has reflected, in his untiring service as Interim President over the past two years, the sense of urgency that the College has needed in order to move itself forward," said Robert Lipscomb, Board Chairman. "We are confident that this momentum will continue under his leadership."

The President's Installation will be facilitated by University of Memphis President Shirley Raines on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., in the Robert C. Lipscomb Dining Hall at LeMoyne-Owen College.

Dr. Watson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from LeMoyne-Owen College in 1960 and a Master's Degree from Indiana University in 1966. In his early days at the College, he served as President of the Future Teachers of America and President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In 2001, he was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from LeMoyne-Owen College for his contributions to education over 43 years.

He began a career in the Memphis City Schools in 1960 as a social studies teacher at Carver High School. After holding several positions in the central office administration, he was

promoted to Deputy Superintendent in 1988. On retiring from the Memphis City Schools in 1992, he accepted a teaching position at Rhodes College. He was later appointed chair of the Department of Education and Distinguished Associate Professor. His lifetime commitment and dedication to education were deciding factors when the Memphis Board of Education unanimously appointed him to the role of Superintendent where he served from 2000-2003.

President Watson served on the Board of Trustees of LeMoyne-Owen College from 2000 until he was unanimously appointed to serve as Interim President on August 16, 2006. On September 19, 2008, he was also unanimously appointed to serve as the eleventh President of LeMoyne-Owen College. President Watson is an active member of Mt. Moriah-East Baptist Church.

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