



MEDIA NOTICE

807 Walker Avenue Memphis, TN 38126

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Elaine Y. Sanford, Public Information Officer (901) 292-3943

President Watson Named to Memphis Chamber Board of Directors

MEMPHIS, TN – Dec 15, 2010 – LeMoyne-Owen College President Johnnie B. Watson has been named to the Board of Directors of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce. President Watson will begin serving a one-year appointment to the Board of Directors on January 1, 2011. The appointment is renewable year to year. As President of LeMoyne-Owen College, Dr. Watson will be among other educators appointed to represent academic and workforce development concerns.

President Watson began his career in the Memphis City Schools in 1960 as a social studies teacher at Carver High School. After holding several positions in 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. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis and the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA). He has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of WKNO Public Television Station. 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 unanimously appointed to serve as the 11th President of LeMoyne-Owen College. President Watson is married to Loretta Jones Watson and is an active member of Mt. Moriah-East Baptist Church.

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Other appointees include Dr. Nate Essex of Southwest TN Community College and the superintendents of Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Public Schools. For more information concerning this appointment, see the contact listed above; or, contact Amy Daniels, Director of Communications at Memphis Chamber of Commerce: 543-3557 or adaniels@memphischamber.com.

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