

For immediate release

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Sentara College of Health Sciences Announces Board of Governors

Chesapeake, VA - Sentara College of Health Sciences has formed its first Board of Governors to provide fiduciary and operational oversight of the institution. This long-planned evolution is an important step in the college's journey toward accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Sentara College is an accredited, private, not-for-profit institution of higher learning that is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools.

Sentara College currently operates as a part of Sentara Healthcare, a not-for-profit hospital and health care system. However, SACSCOC requires colleges and universities to demonstrate operational and financial independence. The new governing board provides that independence.

"SACSCOC is considered the gold standard for accreditation in higher education," said Dr. Angela Taylor, executive leader for the college. "Development of our own board is key to providing our graduates with the highest quality education and the freedom to pursue the widest range of future educational opportunities."

Sentara College traces its history to 1892, when the future Sentara Norfolk General Hospital opened a nursing school. The college now offers master's, baccalaureate, and associate degrees, as well as academic and continuing education certificate programs.

Dr. Taylor will work closely with the new governing board on the vision and plan for the future of Sentara College. "(Sentara President and CEO) Howard Kern is a visionary, and he understands how important Sentara College is to the health care system," said Taylor. "We could never have reached this point without his blessing."

"Our Board of Governors is a hand-picked collection of respected individuals from across the region," Dr. Taylor continued. "We were careful to blend experienced educators and healthcare professionals with experts in finance, governance, and diversity and inclusion."

The members are:

- Caleb Cooper, Vice President of Equity and Belonging, YMCA of Hampton Roads
- Mitzi Glass, Lead Outpatient Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
- Dr. Terris Kennedy, Retired Chief Nursing Officer, Riverside Health System
- Aubrey Layne, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Sentara Healthcare

- Anna Millirons, Director of Finance, Carilion Clinic
- Dr. Liisa Ortegon, President, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital
- Cardell Patillo, Chairman of the Board, Portsmouth City Schools
- Brennan Peterson, Director of Finance, Sentara Norfolk General Hospital
- Bill Thomas, Associate Vice President, Governmental Relations, Hampton University
- Dr. Angela Taylor, Sentara College of Health Sciences (ex-officio, non-voting member)

The Sentara College of Health Sciences Board of Governors will convene its first board meeting later this month.

About Sentara College

Sentara College of Health Sciences was founded as Norfolk's first nursing school in 1892. Now celebrating its 129th year, Sentara College is an institution of higher education that provides transformative education in health sciences through undergraduate and graduate degree programs and continuing education programs. The college promotes excellence in professional practice through a culture of innovation and service. This nationally accredited college offers Master of Science in Nursing degrees, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and RN to BSN online degrees, associate degrees in Cardiovascular Technology and Surgical Technology, academic certificates in Cardiac Electrophysiology, and certificate programs in Monitor Surveillance and Patient Care Technician. Sentara College embraces online and hybrid education delivery to ensure maximum flexibility for students. The College also emphasizes hands-on experiential learning in classrooms, skills labs, simulation, and clinical settings. Thanks to these educational philosophies, the College and its graduates achieve consistently excellent outcomes.