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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Bennie L. Harris Named Sr. Vice President of Institutional Advancement for Morehouse School Of Medicine

May 30, 2014 – ATLANTA – Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) has announced Bennie L. Harris, Ph.D., as the senior vice president of institutional advancement, effective June 1, 2014. He will report to Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., president-elect and dean.

Dr. Harris will work comprehensively within the institution to create sustainable fundraising growth, increase and diversify the MSM donor base, and lead the institution's capital campaign. He will oversee individual giving, alumni affairs, corporate and foundation giving, the annual fund, and development services and have supervisory responsibility for marketing and communications.

"We are excited Dr. Harris has accepted our invitation to join the MSM family," said Dr. Montgomery Rice. "With his depth of expertise in fundraising in higher education, he is well-equipped to advance our fundraising efforts and continue to help position MSM locally, regionally and nationally."

"Although institutions of higher education like Morehouse School of Medicine grow and evolve to remain competitive in today's environment, its core values remain rooted in the needs of community and reflect a compelling vision for the future," Harris said. "The idea of building for future generations is what pulled me into higher education and now draws me to MSM. It is exciting to build upon what the Institution has achieved, and it is an honor to join president-elect Valerie Montgomery Rice and the MSM team."

Dr. Harris will join MSM from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., where he served as the vice president of development and alumni relations. There, he established its first grant management office and has led the university through four years of a six-year \$125 million campaign, of which a significant amount has already been raised. Dr. Harris also is an adjunct professor in Lipscomb's College of Business and at Vanderbilt University, Peabody College.

Prior to joining Lipscomb University, he held various leadership fundraising roles at DePaul University in Chicago, Ill., the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Washington State University in Pullman, Wash.

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Dr. Harris earned a doctorate of educational leadership and minor area in service marketing from the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in strategic marketing from Washington State University.

He also holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering-cooperative education certificate from Mississippi State University. He was a Vanderbilt Fellow at Vanderbilt University, Higher Education Management Institute and a Harvard Summer Fellow at Harvard University, Institute for Educational Management.

Dr. Harris has received numerous accolades for his professional work and community service, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award in 1993 and 1996 from Washington State University. He also is member of a variety of civic and professional organizations, including Tennessee Minority Health Summit and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

About Morehouse School of Medicine

Founded in 1975, MSM is among the nation's leading educators of primary care physicians and was recognized by Annals of Internal Medicine in 2011 as the top institution in the first study of U.S. medical schools for our social mission based on our production of primary care physicians, training of underrepresented minority doctors and placement of doctors practicing in underserved communities. Our faculty and alumni are noted for excellence in teaching, research and public policy, as well as exceptional patient care.

Morehouse School of Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctorate and master's degrees.

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