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Hunter Rawlings to take helm as interim president April 25



Hunter R. Rawlings III, Cornell president emeritus and professor emeritus of classics, has been appointed interim president effective April 25, Cornell University Board of Trustees Chairman Robert S. Harrison '76 announced March 24.

An international search for the university's 14th president will begin in the coming months, and Rawlings will serve in an interim capacity until that person assumes the office.

Rawlings served as Cornell's 10th president from 1995 to 2003. This is the second time he has accepted the position of interim president; he previously took the helm in 2005-06 following the resignation of Jeffrey Lehman.

"Cornell University is indeed fortunate that Hunter has agreed to step forward once again to lead through a time of transition," said Harrison. "The board's unanimous vote is evidence of the respect for his leadership at Cornell and as one of the nation's premier advocates for higher education." Rawlings has served as president of the Association of American Universities since 2011 and last year had announced he would be stepping down in May 2016.

Harrison thanked Provost Michael Kotlikoff, who has been serving as acting president since Feb. 19, when President Elizabeth Garrett underwent surgery. Garrett, the university's 13th and first female president, died March 6 from colon cancer after eight months in office.

"Mike's leadership and steady hand during what has been an unprecedented and challenging time for Cornell has been nothing short of exceptional," Harrison said.

"President Garrett built a strong leadership team, and we have set an ambitious agenda," Kotlikoff said. "I look forward to

working with Hunter, who knows Cornell so well and is so highly regarded by the faculty. His inspired leadership and experience make him the perfect choice.”

“It is an honor to once again be called to help lead this great institution,” Rawlings said. “There is much momentum around Beth’s vision, and I will work with Mike, the leadership team, deans, faculty, students and staff across our campuses to continue building the university’s strengths around those priorities.”

As Cornell’s 10th president, Rawlings renewed the university’s emphasis on undergraduate teaching and worked with the faculty to identify strategic scientific priorities. His initiatives included: promoting student diversity and Cornell’s need-blind admissions policy; launching the Residential Initiative, which resulted in the transformation of North Campus into a living and learning community for freshmen and new West Campus residential colleges; establishing the undergraduate Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program, which was renamed in his honor; setting strategic goals for life sciences and engineering, as well as humanities and social sciences; and strengthening Weill Cornell Medical College.

Among his accomplishments as interim president, Rawlings traveled to China to inaugurate an academic exchange between Tsinghua University and the College of Engineering, to finalize with Peking University arrangements for the Beijing portion of Cornell’s new undergraduate major in China and Asia Pacific Studies, and to cultivate opportunities for new relationships and exchange programs.

Before coming to Cornell, Rawlings served as president of the University of Iowa. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, he received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1970 and is a 1966 graduate of Haverford College. He is married to Elizabeth Trapnell Rawlings, a freelance translator of scholarly works from French to English. The couple has four children.

Health of the whole person is hallmark of Corson-Rikert legacy

On March 21, Dr. Janet Corson-Rikert, associate vice president for campus health and executive director of Gannett Health Services, toured the new section of the Ithaca campus’s health care facility, currently under construction.

The new addition – slated for completion in 2017 – will help realize Corson-Rikert’s long-standing vision to provide Cornell with a comprehensive, integrated approach to health services for students and public health for the campus.

Corson-Rikert will retire from Cornell in May, leaving a legacy of advocacy and care that addresses the well-being of the whole person – physically, mentally and emotionally. Her last day on campus will be April 1.

“I know Cornell students have benefited from Janet’s thoughtful leadership,” said Ryan Lombardi, vice president for student and campus life. “Janet is intelligent, strategic, caring, dedicated and forward-thinking. She has been tireless in doing all she can to ensure that Gannett Health Services is in the best possible position as she departs after an incredible career. We will miss her leadership, and, more importantly, we will miss her selfless approach to her work and genuine care for others.”

Coming to Cornell in 1992 as a staff physician, Corson-Rikert was appointed executive director of Cornell’s health services in 1995 and has led the unit since.

“Janet’s background, first in practicing pediatrics and adolescent medicine and then in serving at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, gave her experience in dealing with young adults,” said Susan Murphy, Lombardi’s predecessor. “She has since transformed Cornell’s campus health services from an emergency-based model of health care response to a holistic approach that includes health promotion and prevention strategies, medical and mental health services, crisis response and recovery efforts, and campus and community engagement.”

Murphy also noted, “Janet was relentless in tackling serious challenges.” She highlighted the measures Corson-Rikert and her staff took during the H1N1 flu epidemic in 2009; the changes they implemented for Slope Day; and their approach to student mental health, ranging from advocating for the installation of steel mesh nets beneath Cornell’s bridges, to launching the Caring Community and “Notice and Respond” public education campaigns, to promoting peer-education and intervention to address high-risk alcohol and substance use, hazing, depression, sexual violence and eating disorders.

“Janet has been there for our community in some of our most challenging times, supporting our students, staff and faculty, always calm and confident in the face of difficulty,” said Mary Opperman, vice president and chief human resources officer.

Because of Corson-Rikert’s influence, “health is now recognized as central to the learning mission of Cornell,” said Timothy Marchell, director of Gannett’s Skorton Center for Health Initiatives.

Under her leadership, the Cornell Faculty and Staff Assistance Program and Student Disability Services were incorporated under the campus health umbrella, and occupational medicine services were enhanced.

“These many and varied efforts have all advanced and strengthened a seamless fabric of support for the entire Cornell community,” said Gregory Eells, director of Gannett’s counseling and psychological services.

In 2014, Corson-Rikert was nationally recognized with the American College Health Association’s [Ollie B. Moten Award](#) for her “exceptional service and commitment to her institution and to the field of college health.”

When it opens, the new health facility will support further integration of Cornell’s health care services: facilitating access to and continuity of care for students; encouraging collaboration between providers of mental health, medical, nutrition, physical therapy and pharmacy services; and expanding opportunities for student, faculty and staff partnerships in support of campus health.

Said Corson-Rikert: “I have had the great fortune to work with a remarkable group of colleagues, campus partners and student leaders, and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together. With the benefit of a new facility designed to support collaboration and serve evolving health care needs, I know the Cornell health team will continue to introduce innovative strategies to promote the health of students and the entire campus community. I look forward to following their progress.”

Registration for Bring a Child to Work Day 2016 opens March 25

Registration for **Bring a Child to Work Day 2016 begins March 25, 9 a.m. Popular sessions fill up quickly after opening time.**

Bring a Child to Work Day will be held April 28. In order to provide sessions for as many children as possible, registrants will be limited initially to signing their child up for **two** learning sessions for the day. After the initial sign up period, any remaining sessions will re-open for additional sign up. The registration period ends April 18 at 5 p.m.

Suggestions for registering:

1. Talk with your child before registration opens on March 25th about what he or she wants to do. Have first, second and third choices ready for each of the different time slots. (The printed registration page, found at <https://hr.cornell.edu/life/celebrating/bactwd.html>, is helpful for collecting this information.)
2. Very often parents are waiting on line for the registration page to go live at 9 a.m. You may need to **refresh the page** before being able to see and interact with the registration system.
3. If you are still having trouble registering, email bring_a_child@cornell.edu for registration assistance.

Tentative schedule for April 28

Session 1: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 11 a.m.- noon

Lunch: Noon-1:30 p.m.

Session 3: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

See [the FAQ](#), [session descriptions](#), [alternative activities](#) and [the Cornell map](#) for more information.

Wellness contest: Make movement matter

This year's Cornell Wellness contest will be held April 11-May 22. **Registration deadline: April 6.** The contest will kick-off with an optional gathering April 11, 10:15-11 a.m., in the Alice Statler Auditorium. You do not need to attend to participate in the contest, but if you attend the kick-off gathering you will have the chance to win one of several door prizes.

How this year's contest works

- Start putting your team of 4-6 people together now. Teams can include anyone from the Cornell community: staff, faculty, students, retirees, and spouses/partners.
- Come up with a team name. The cleverer, the better, but keep it appropriate.
- Choose a movement goal (either health, fitness or performance) that matters to you. Those choosing a health goal will need to be physically active 150-299 minutes per week, or 30 minutes at least five days a week; those choosing a fitness goal, 300-599 minutes per week, or 60 minutes at least five days a week; those choosing performance, more than 600 minutes per week, or more than 90 minutes, seven days a week.
- The goal you choose will be the goal that you will be measured against for the entire contest: choose a challenging goal that is also realistic and obtainable. Each member of your team can choose their own goal; they do not have to choose the same goal.
- Individuals must register by April 6. Include your name, e-mail address, team name and your goal. You will also need to remember your team name to report in your activity each week (each individual will report their own data).
- Each week on Mondays by 11:59 p.m., each participant must report their own activity for the past week confidentially through a Qualtrics form. An e-mail reminder will be sent every Friday and Monday. If you do not have access to a computer to do so, pair up with a team buddy who can enter your activity total.

Teams are encouraged to develop ways to support each other, so that all members stay motivated: create a team communication list or team Facebook page, or form workout groups, for instance.

How to win prizes

Individual goal winners: Each week you reach your movement goal and submit your minutes, you will receive one entry into the random drawing for your movement goal level. Each goal will have one winner.

Team challenges: Two team challenges will be held over the course of the contest. Teams participating in and completing a challenge will be entered into that challenge's prize drawing. Team challenges will be announced shortly.

Team goal winners: To be eligible for team goals, all team members must reach their movement goal and submit their minutes every week.

- One team from each of the three movement categories (health, fitness and performance) with perfect goal achievement and all submissions will be randomly selected as that goal's team winner.
- One grand prize will be awarded to a random team whose members have all achieved their goal each week and logged their minutes each week for the duration of the contest.

For more information and a list of frequently asked questions, see the wellness website <http://recreation.athletics.cornell.edu/wellness/outreach/spring-contest>.

High Five Employee Recognition Event will be held March 29

To celebrate the excellence of Cornell employees, High Five Recognition Events will be held Tuesday, March 29 in Ithaca, Geneva and New York City. All Cornell employees are invited to take a break and enjoy refreshments with colleagues at any of these events:

Ithaca campus: 10 a.m., four locations:

- East Hill Office Building atrium
- Duffield Hall atrium, at the Workday Table
- Weill Hall main atrium
- Klarman Hall atrium

Geneva Campus: 10 a.m. Barton Lab Lobby

In New York City (Manhattan unless noted):

- **Cornell Cooperative Extension NYC: 11 a.m.**
 1. Manhattan: 40 E. 34th St., conference room
 2. Queens: 89-62 164th St., conference room
- **Cornell University Alumni Affairs and Development: 9:15 a.m., 230 Park Ave., Suite 1510**
- **ILR Extension: 10 a.m., 4th Floor Conference Room, 16 East 34th St.**
- **Cornell Tech: 9:30 a.m., 15th Floor C**

The High Five Employee Recognition Program is sponsored by Human Resources.

Energy savings for your home

Get Your GreenBack is offering two new energy-savings incentives in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County: a series of presentations on the benefits and incentives of pellet heat and energy efficiency, and a volunteer energy awareness program.

[Green & Cozy](#)

Looking for a green and affordable way to heat your home and be more comfortable? Learn how Tompkins County residents are saving money and enjoying greater comfort through a combination of energy efficiency and wood pellet stoves and boilers.

At a series of presentations in April in Trumansburg, Newfield, Caroline, Dryden and Lansing, community educators from Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County and Get Your GreenBack Tompkins will provide up-to-date information on the benefits of weatherizing homes and installing wood pellet stoves and boilers.

This program helps guide participants through the state and federal rebates and incentives that help make investments in efficiency and purchasing a pellet stove cost effective. While there are incentives for all households, rebates are especially generous for homes that do not heat with natural gas and have limited incomes. In addition, through this program, local pellet stove vendors are providing discounts to make the switch even easier.

There is no cost to participate and all are welcome. Presentations will be held at:

- Ulysses Town Hall: March 30, 6-8 p.m.
- Lansing Town Hall: April 5, 6-8 p.m.
- Dryden Fire Hall: April 12, 6-8 p.m.
- Newfield Fire Hall: April 18, 6-8 p.m.

- Brooktondale Community Center: April 26, 6-8 p.m.
- Vendor Expo - CCE-Tompkins: May 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Green & Cozy is an initiative of Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County and Get Your GreenBack Tompkins, in coordination with local energy and stove contractors. Contact Dave Janeczek (dmj59@cornell.edu) or Catherine Hwang (sh928@cornell.edu) with questions or for more information.

Energy Navigators

Volunteer “energy navigators” are sought to help people reach their energy goals.

Through ten hands-on and in-depth classes beginning April 19, 9-11 a.m. at Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ithaca, volunteers will learn about energy efficiency, renewable energy and heating options, and about incentives, programs and resources available to save energy at home.

They then will help community members reduce their energy use and energy bills, and enjoy safer and more comfortable homes.

Those who wish to become a volunteer must apply by March 31. For more information and to apply, visit www.getyourgreenbacktompkins.org/navigators

or contact Karim Beers, Get Your GreenBack Tompkins coordinator, at kwb6@cornell.edu.

Energy Navigators is a program of Get Your GreenBack Tompkins and Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

CIGNA life insurance Special Enrollment period upcoming

Employees will receive a personalized letter of offer at their home addresses in early April announcing a special enrollment period, April 11-22. This Special Enrollment is for those wishing to enroll in CIGNA Group Universal Life (GUL) Insurance, or if already enrolled, to increase their GUL voluntary coverage(s) up to a guaranteed level, without having to answer medical questions. This offer is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner and/or your dependent children. Coverage changes will become effective on July 1, 2016.

Those already enrolled in GUL who do not wish to increase their level of coverage do not need to do anything during this Special Enrollment period. Their current coverage will continue automatically.

A CIGNA representative will be on campus to answer questions about life insurance on the following dates:

- April 13, 2:30-3:30 p.m., G01 Biotech
 - April 14, 11 a.m.-noon, 140 East Hill Office Building,
 - April 14, 2:30-3:30 p.m., G01 Biotech
 - April 15, 9:30-10:30 a.m., G01 Biotech
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