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For immediate release

**Morris College Names Chief Academic Affairs Officer
Dr. Lewis P. Graham**

On Monday, July 8, 2024, Morris College President Said Sewell, Ph.D., named Dr. Lewis P. Graham Chief Academic Affairs Officer. This comes after Graham has been working in the role of Interim Academic Dean since July 1, 2022.

"I am pleased to have Dr. Graham as a major thought leader (Chief Academic Affairs Officer) on my team," Morris College President Sewell said. "His commitment to academic excellence, especially in the areas of student success, institutional assessment and planning, and academic programs, aligns well with my vision of continuing to elevate Morris College."



Graham

The role serves as a second in line of executive authority after the President and as Chief Academic Officer of the College. Graham supervises the College's curriculum, assists the President in recruiting faculty, evaluates faculty performance, develops and maintains a budget for each unit in the Division of Academic Affairs, and more.

"The title honestly means," Graham said. "I have an awesome task, along with faculty and staff, to ensure the academic success of our students. [I am a part of] providing academic programs, academic rigor, and experiential opportunities to give them a solid foundation to be an asset for tomorrow's workforce and society." In his time as Interim Academic Dean, Graham accomplished many things. He acquired a \$155,000 grant from the National Historic Preservation Trust, initiated the infusion of technology into the classroom delivery and instructional methods by installing new Samsung smartboards in each of the classrooms in July 2023, and facilitated the addition of four

new majors: Esports Cybersecurity, Esports Management, Esports Video Game Design and Supply Chain Management. The new majors were SACSCOC-approved and implemented in August 2023.

He has also hired key faculty to fill key instructional roles: Seven (7) new full-time faculty: A Biology professor in the Division of General Education, an Interim Chairperson in the Division of Business Administration, a Chairperson and an Early Childhood professor in the Division of Education, and a Cybersecurity professor and a Chemistry professor in the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics and a Sociology professor in Religion, Humanities and Social Sciences. He also added key academic support as Director of Student Support Services, Director of Innovation Technology Laboratory, and Upward Bound Counselor.

Graham will continue to elevate Morris College to new levels in this role. With a growing number of incoming freshmen and transfers, Graham's first year in his new role is promised to be packed with learning experiences, more changes to facilities and learning areas, readjusting and adding to the growing curriculum and consistent work with faculty and staff to make Morris College not just a household name, but also the top HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in the South.

"Dr. Graham shares our commitment to the Morris College mission to produce graduates who can pursue useful and productive careers and in so doing, enhance their own lives and the society in which they take their places," Sewell said. "It is what attracted him to and kept him at the College."

On September 1, 2024, Graham will celebrate his 12th year serving Morris College.

More about Graham

Graham received a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Benedict College, a Master of Science in Physics from the University of South Carolina, a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Louisiana State University.

**The title change is unofficial, pending approval from the Morris College Board of Trustees on July 30th*

Keep up with Morris College on social media to see big upcoming changes.

About Morris College

Established in 1908, Morris College is a historically black, liberal arts college, operated by South Carolina Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention. Located in Sumter, South Carolina, Morris' mission is to provide students with the intellect and personal development needed to enhance their lives while preparing them for the path they choose to pursue.