



BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM

NEWS RELEASE

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The Business-Higher Education Forum Welcomes New Leadership

Washington, DC (August 22, 2006) –The Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), a national organization of Fortune 500 CEOs, leaders of colleges and universities, and foundation executives, which focuses on educational issues of strategic importance to these sectors, welcomes its new leadership for 2006-2008. Herbert M. Allison, Jr., chief executive of TIAA-CREF, will lead the organization as its new chairman, and David J. Skorton, President of Cornell University, will serve as vice chairman.

Mr. Allison succeeds Washington University in St. Louis chancellor Mark S. Wrighton, who chaired BHEF from 2004 to 2006. Dr. Skorton succeeds Mr. Allison as vice chairman.

“BHEF is fortunate to have Herb Allison and David Skorton at the helm. As the organization undertakes new initiatives, we are confident that our new leadership will enable us to bring together some of the nation’s pre-eminent corporate and academic leaders to identify effective approaches to boost student achievement in preK-12,” Mark Wrighton said.

“In this new role I look forward to continuing to work with BHEF members, David Skorton, and others to advance our priorities and achieve our shared goals, including increased U.S. student achievement in math and science, and a more effective business and higher education response to the crisis in K-12 public education,” said Herb Allison. “With our engaged members, capable staff, and a proactive policy agenda, BHEF is well positioned to build on the foundation laid by outgoing chairman Mark Wrighton, and to advance sound solutions to some of our nation’s most pressing challenges.”

Reacting to the news of his election, David Skorton said, “I am honored to be elected vice chair of the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF). This chance to serve comes at an especially exciting time for me as I join Cornell University as its new president. I am convinced that leveraging the combined strengths of business and higher education will make a real difference. Together, we can have a greater impact in a number of critical areas, such as K-12 outreach, than we could hope for by working separately. I look forward to working with our new chair, Herb Allison, and his predecessor, Mark Wrighton and the entire BHEF team.”

Concerned about alarming trends that indicate that the U.S. is losing ground in the critical areas of science and technology, BHEF members have been devising solutions to help the U.S. produce a world-class workforce and to strengthen the nation’s research and development base. In 2005, the organization published *A Commitment to America’s Future; Responding to the Crisis in Mathematics and Science Education* (available at: <http://www.bhef.com/MathEduReport-press.pdf>), and “Securing America’s Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,” which advocates for doubling the number of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics graduates (read more about the initiative at: <http://www.bhef.com/stem.cfm>).

About Herbert M. Allison, Jr.

Herbert M. Allison, Jr. has been Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of TIAA-CREF since November 1, 2002. Mr. Allison joined TIAA-CREF after a 28-year career at Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., where he last served as President and Chief Operating Officer until 1999.

Mr. Allison serves on the Advisory Board of the Yale School of Management, is the Chair of the Business-Higher Education Forum, and is on the board of directors of The Conference Board. He also is a member of the Business Roundtable and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York’s International Advisory Committee. He previously served as Chair of the Vietnam Education Foundation, as well as on the Boards of the United Negro College Fund and the New York Stock Exchange. In addition, he served on Governor Pataki’s New York State Commission on Education Reform.

Mr. Allison earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Yale University. Following a four-year tour of duty in the U.S. Navy, including service in Vietnam, he earned an M.B.A. from Stanford University.

Link to TIAA-CREF

www.tiaa-cref.org

About David Skorton

David J. Skorton will be inaugurated as the 12th president of Cornell University on September 7, 2006. He will hold faculty appointments in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Weill-Cornell Medical College (WCMC) in New York City and in Biomedical Engineering at the College of Engineering on the Ithaca campus.

Skorton served as president of the University of Iowa (UI) from March 2003 until July 2006. He was a faculty member there for 26 years. At UI, Skorton held professorial appointments in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering. He was appointed vice president for research there in 1992 and, additionally, interim vice president for external relations in 2000. He served as vice president for research and external relations from March 2002 until he assumed the presidency. As vice president, he oversaw more than 30 administrative units and headed a research and development program that ranks among the nation's top 20 public research universities in obtaining external funding. He also continued his role as a physician, caring for adolescents and adults with inborn heart disease.

As co-founder and co-director of the UI Adolescent and Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Skorton focused his research on congenital heart disease in adolescents and adults, cardiac imaging, and computer image processing. His research was supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Heart Association, and by private industry. He has published numerous articles, reviews, book chapters, and two major texts in the areas of cardiac imaging and image processing. He served in a variety of administrative positions at the University of Iowa, including director of the Cardiovascular Image Processing Laboratory (1982–1996), director of the Division of General Internal Medicine (1985–1989), and associate chair for clinical programs in the Department of Internal Medicine (1989–1992).

A national leader in research ethics, Skorton is charter past-president of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc., the first entity organized specifically to accredit human research protection programs. He has served on the boards and committees of many national organizations, including the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the American Society of Echocardiography, the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, the Association of American Universities, the Council on Competitiveness, and the Korea America Friendship Society. He has traveled widely in Europe and Asia on behalf of both academic and community projects.

Skorton earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1970 and an M.D. in 1974, both from Northwestern University. Following a medical residency and cardiology fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles, he went to the University of Iowa in 1980 as an instructor. He was named assistant professor of internal medicine in 1981 and assistant

professor of electrical and computer engineering in 1982. He was promoted to associate professor in 1984 and to professor in 1988.

Link to Cornell Press Kit (PDF)

<http://www.cornell.edu/presidentsearch/docs/presskit.pdf>

About the Business-Higher Education Forum

The Business-Higher Education Forum is composed of Fortune 500 CEOs, leaders of colleges and universities, and foundation executives. The organization informs members, policy makers, and the public on issues of strategic importance to both business and higher education, and works to influence public policy on these issues. As an example, BHEF has been a leading voice in the public policy debate on the need to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the United States. The organization currently is embarking on an initiative to improve student achievement in K-12, particularly in science and mathematics. BHEF is chaired by Herbert M. Allison, Jr., Chairman, President, and CEO of TIAA-CREF; its vice chair is David J. Skorton, President of Cornell University.