

## **Announcement from Provost and Vice President Dr. Steve Ralston**

Colleagues,

I am writing with bittersweet news. With much gratitude for the opportunity to serve, effective June 30, 2018 I will step down as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. I want to assure you that the decision to step down is mine alone. Indeed, I discussed with the President my decision just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. I plan to explore new opportunities and seek out adventures, perhaps moving closer to my family in Virginia.

I have enjoyed thoroughly my time at Morehead State, especially working with such fine students, faculty and staff. I am confident that with Dr. Morgan's leadership Morehead State will prosper and in so doing serve the needs of eastern Kentucky and beyond. To help ensure a smooth transition moving forward, I look forward to continuing my work with you throughout the spring semester.

"The road goes ever on and on, down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the road has gone, and I must follow, if I can." –J.R.R. Tolkien

Sincerely,

Steve Ralston

## **Supplemental Announcement From President Dr. Jay Morgan**

I would like to take this opportunity to first and foremost thank Dr. Ralston for his service to MSU. I have had the opportunity to know and work with Dr. Ralston both during my time in Frankfort and in my time at Morehead, and in both instances he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the University and representing Academic Affairs. I know many of you have had similar positive experiences with him. We should all wish him well and offer him our gratitude for his service. As we enter the spring we will host a reception for him as an additional way to express our appreciation.

In light of his wishes to transition, we have begun the background work to initiative a national search for a new Provost. Currently, I think we can conduct the search process utilizing a search committee, and I do not have plans to hire an outside search firm to assist us at this time.

Our timeline is still under development, however we are targeting a successful candidate to be named in mid/late spring with an ideal start date on July 1, 2018. Within the next few weeks we hope to have a position advertisement crafted, a search committee named, a draft timeline to follow, as well as a university overview document ready for dissemination to interested candidates. In the meantime, I plan to speak to our campus constituency leaders, our academic leadership, and others to capture any thoughts that they may have before we start the process.

Since we are entering the holidays, and time is of the essence to get a search going, if any faculty or staff have any thoughts or suggestions related to the search, please feel free to forward those to me by this coming Monday morning. We don't want to rush the search process itself, but we

do feel that we should move expeditiously to at least get it underway and advertised nationally. The process would most likely be a traditional search with the first round of interviews likely being confidential and hosted at an off-site location (known as airport interviews), and then the respective finalists would be made public and would be invited to campus for multiple venues with various groups and constituencies.

I pledge to keep our campus informed of the organization of the search and in the progress of a search committee as we move forward. Thank you for your efforts and what you do for MSU on a daily basis – we appreciate it.