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Reynolds President Rhodes Announces Retirement Date

Richmond, Va. (January 9, 2018) – Reynolds Community College President Gary L. Rhodes announced today that he will retire effective September 1, 2018, capping off a more than 15-year career serving Reynolds and its students.

"The Reynolds College Board recognizes the significant accomplishments that Gary has made to elevate Reynolds to become the world-class institution it is today," said Reynolds College Board President Stephen Baril. "Whether it is addressing a community need like building a Culinary Institute in the city's food desert East End, to assisting first generation college students on a day-to-day basis - the Greater-Richmond community has greatly benefited from his leadership in providing job training and career preparation opportunities for thousands of students."

Rhodes came to Reynolds in 2002 from Riverland Community College in Minnesota, where he had been president since 1998. Rhodes is only the third president in the 46-year existence of the college. Rhodes followed Dr. Simeon "Bud" Alexander Burnette.

"For some time I have thought that the community college presidency is like a precious library book. The president is honored by being able to check out the book for a number of years, add his/her own chapters of their presidency to the precious book knowing all along that they must take great care of the book as it must be turned in at some point for their successor to add his or her own chapters," notes Rhodes. "I have done my very best to add meaningful chapters to the presidency of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College and it is now time for me to turn that presidential book back in for the next president."

Rhodes is very active in the community, having served on the boards of more than a dozen Richmond and Virginia institutions and organizations during his tenure at Reynolds.

Reynolds, founded in 1972, is the third-largest school in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), with campuses in Henrico and Goochland counties and downtown Richmond. The VCCS will soon launch a nationwide search for Rhodes' successor.

Serving over 18,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.