



Contact:
Christine Reedy
Antioch College
(937)319-0159
creedy@antiochcollege.edu

President Tom Manley Announces Retirement from Antioch College

Yellow Springs, OH (August 4, 2020) — In a message to the campus today, Antioch College President Tom Manley announced his plans to retire at the end of the academic year in 2021. Dr. Manley was named president in November 2015 after a national search by the Board of Trustees. He started his tenure on March 1, 2016 after serving as president of Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon, for 12 years and in various teaching and administrative posts at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, for 23 years prior to that.

With a background in East Asian history and culture, expertise in intercultural education, community-based learning, and educational program development, and success as a fundraiser, Dr. Manley has brought a wealth of experience to Antioch. His tenure at the College has been focused on a broad range of challenges related to institutional vision building, budget alignment, diversity and inclusion, enrollment and campus climate, fund and friend-raising, administrative restructuring, and governance.

"It's remarkable just how quickly the last four and half years have gone," he said. "It's an honor to be at Antioch College each day, amidst such rich history and at a time when its bold, big-picture thinking, embodied in programs like Antioch College Works, is vitally needed in higher education."

Dr. Manley engaged with Antioch's Board leadership about retirement well before making a final decision. "Tom wanted the timing to work for the College, and we wanted to have some distance between his informing the community and the difficult budget actions necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis," said Maureen Lynch, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

When Dr. Manley began at the College, he faced a list of urgent matters, including finalizing fast track accreditation, addressing a \$7 million budget shortfall his first day on the job, and the need to begin a process of curricular innovation that would distinguish the College. Under his guidance, Antioch has articulated a vision for a new kind of college—a college of action—where students own their education, learn experientially, and act for justice. To provide that maximum agency to students and to address the pressing realities of small colleges, he supported a faculty-led reworking of the curriculum and academic calendar, and worked with the community and Board to increase and strengthen shared governance.

He has championed the notion of college and university campuses as anchors of resilience for their communities, and actively sought to further Antioch's historic commitment to shared



governance, social justice, and educational equity. During his presidency, diversity in the administration and on the Board has increased, and, despite budget reductions, positions to better support diversity, equity, and inclusion programming have been created.

In his final year, Dr. Manley will focus his efforts on securing the resources, visibility, and key partnerships needed to ensure the success of Antioch College Works (ACW). Announced in December, ACW addresses the affordability, accessibility, and value of the applied liberal arts with a program providing guaranteed full-tuition scholarships to Pell-eligible students, and real-world work experience and preparedness for all students through campus and community jobs, and both international and post-graduate job placements. The ACW program has drawn a strong response from prospective students and donors with enrollment projected to more than double for the fall, and giving for related scholarships totaling \$2 million.

"I am very excited by the opportunity to focus on that groundbreaking program in the coming year. There's lots to do," Manley said.

Lynch added, "We are glad to have one more year of Tom's characteristically collaborative leadership as Antioch continues to face daunting challenges, and I take this opportunity to assure you that the Board is determined to continue the vital work of bringing Antioch College forward in a world that needs it now more than ever."

The Antioch College Board of Trustees will announce a presidential transition plan in the fall.

#

About Antioch College

Antioch College is a groundbreaking and progressive institution and community, dedicated to winning victories for humanity. Antioch students apply their classroom learning in the world at-large, through extended Co-op work placements with national and international organizations. Antioch teaches and lives its commitments to educational innovation, an engaged campus community, and the pursuit of social justice in all its forms. Antioch College is located in Yellow Springs, OH, in the heart of the Miami Valley. Learn more at antiochcollege.edu and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.