



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY HIRES FOUNDING DEAN FOR NEW COLLEGE OF URBAN EDUCATION**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 24, 2013** –Davenport University is proud to announce that Dr. Andre Perry, a nationally renowned education reformist, has been named the Founding Dean for a College of Urban Education currently in development stages. Dr. Perry most recently served as the Associate Director for Educational Initiatives for the Loyola Institute for Quality and Equity in Education at Loyola University in New Orleans.

Dr. Perry will lead development of a College of Urban Education that will change how teachers and education leaders are prepared for service in urban K-12 settings. Davenport received a \$200,000 grant from The Steelcase Foundation that will be used to form a national advisory committee and commence development of a proposed Master's program in collaboration with Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS).

“We are very excited Dr. Perry has agreed to lead our efforts to develop a new College of Urban Education, and we are grateful for the grant from the Steelcase Foundation that will help us get started,” said Dr. Richard Pappas, President of Davenport University. “Dr. Perry’s expertise and experience will be instrumental in developing a prestigious advisory committee featuring top names from across the country. The advisory committee, as well as the strong partnership we will build with GRPS, will result in the creation of an innovative, pioneering College of Urban Education.”

“We want to congratulate and thank Davenport University for their vision and leadership with the hiring of Dr. Perry and the formation of the new College of Urban Education,” said Teresa Weatherall Neal, M.Ed., Superintendent of GRPS. “Davenport has been a longstanding partner with GRPS, particularly with our GRAPCEP (Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program) school, which is why it is a natural fit for this initiative to take place at the new Innovation Central High.”

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“Teaching and leading schools in an urban environment requires special talent, with enhanced skills, training and relationship building, to ensure every child achieves their potential,” said Neal. “The GRPS Transformation Plan specifically focuses on recruiting, retaining and developing the top talent and this new College of Education under the leadership of Dr. Perry is exactly the type of talent development that is needed.”

Initially, the College of Urban Education will develop a proposal for a Master’s degree that will prepare professionals holding teaching and non-teaching bachelor’s degrees to make a difference in urban classrooms across Michigan. Davenport will follow recommendations from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Blue Ribbon Report and incorporate Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence for outcomes measurement in this program.

### **About Dr. Andre Perry**

Prior to his role at Loyola, Dr. Perry was Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of New Orleans as well as CEO of the Capital One-University of New Orleans Charter Network, a role in which he developed and nurtured partnerships with community partners including businesses, non-profit organizations, universities, school districts, neighborhood associations and churches to help the Network of charter schools meet educational objectives.

Dr. Perry has served in a variety of education, leadership and administration roles for organizations including the Student Leadership Institute for the Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program, the Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education, the Office of Human Relations at University of Maryland, and others.

In 2011, Dr. Perry authored [The Garden Path: The Miseducation of a City](#), published by the University of New Orleans Press. In the book, non-fiction narrative is used to illustrate the real-life tensions involved in post-Katrina education reform in New Orleans. Dr. Perry also co-authored the chapters “Resilience and Opportunity: Lessons from the U.S. Gulf Coast after Katrina and Rita,” published on Brookings Institution Press, and “Between Public and Private: Politics, Governance, and the New Portfolio Models for Urban School Reform,” published on Harvard University Press.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. Perry earned his Ph.D. in education policy and leadership from the University of Maryland College Park. His research and teaching interests are college access and retention, charter schools and immigrant educational rights.

### **About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving about 11,000 students at campuses across Michigan and online. With tuition among the lowest of all private universities in the state, Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience and more than 50 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers in business, technology and health professions. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).