



## NEWS RELEASE

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### DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY APPOINTS PAULA CUNNINGHAM AS NEW TRUSTEE

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 6, 2015** – Davenport University is pleased to announce that Paula D. Cunningham, President and CEO of Capitol National Bank (CNB) in Lansing, Mich., will join the Davenport University Board of Trustees, effective March 2015.

Ms. Cunningham has led CNB, a community-focused bank serving individuals and small- and medium-sized businesses, since 2006. At CNB, she was the first female, African-American president of a non-minority-owned bank in the nation and led the institution successfully through the recent recession that affected many of the bank's clients. Prior to joining CNB, Cunningham served as the first female President of Lansing Community College, where she led implementation of a strategic plan that resulted growth and several new facilities, including the Paula D. Cunningham Administration Building. She served in a number of other roles at LCC during her 25 years with the college.

"We are pleased to welcome a leader of Paula Cunningham's caliber to the board," said Tracy Graham, Chair of Davenport's Board of Trustees. "She has proven her leadership in business, in education and in her community. We look forward to the many contributions she will bring to the growth and vitality of Davenport University."

"I hope that my background in business and education will effectively equip the students at Davenport to be marketable and successful in the 21st century's competitive knowledge economy," said Cunningham. "I am honored to hold an integral role in preparing students and helping them reach their goals."

"Lansing is an important, growing market for Davenport, as shown by our investment in a new downtown campus there just two years ago," said Dr. Richard J. Pappas, President of Davenport University. "We welcome a proven leader like Paula Cunningham who has deep connections in this community and strong higher education experience."

Cunningham has served in numerous community leadership positions, including as Chair of the board for the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, on the Executive Committee of the McLaren Health Systems, as Chair of the Michigan Association of United Ways, on the Executive Committee of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, as a founding member of MiQuest Board, as Co-Chair of the Children's Leadership Council of Michigan, and as Chair of the Grace Foundation, and more. Her dedication to education, small business and community was recognized with her induction in 2013 to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She also has

been presented the Athena Award and was featured in Ebony Magazine as a “Woman on the Move.”

**About Capitol National Bank**

Capitol National Bank has provided relationship banking to the Greater Lansing community since its founding in 1982. The hallmark of their success is specializing in a very high level of personal service for businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals.

**About Davenport University**

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university with campuses across Michigan and online courses serving an enrollment of 9,000 students. 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. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).

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