

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bethune-Cookman University has a rich and remarkable history. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune first opened the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in October 3, 1904. After becoming the Daytona Educational and Industrial Institute, the school went co-ed and merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville. In 1931, the school name's was officially changed to Bethune-Cookman College to reflect the leadership of Dr. McLeod Bethune; and

WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, the child of former slaves, became a national civil rights leader, women's rights advocate, promoter of education, and presidential advisor. She believed in creating a world of fellowship and freedom. Dr. Bethune proclaimed that the legacy she would leave for future generations of African Americans was one of love, hope, confidence, racial dignity, harmony, a thirst for education, and a responsibility to the world's youth to uphold those ideals. She believed brotherhood to be the noblest concept in all human relations. Dr. Bethune continues to inspire through her philosophy of faith, scholarship, and service. Her vision lives on today at the school that she founded; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2019, following a national search, Dr. E. LaBrent Chrite became the seventh president of Bethune-Cookman University. Dr. Chrite previously served as dean at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business and at Montclair State University. Dr. Chrite also previously held leadership positions at the University of Arizona and the University of Michigan. Dr. Chrite has taught strategic management, leadership, and business to students and executives; and

WHEREAS, since 1943, Bethune-Cookman University has graduated more than 13,200 students. B-CU's athletic, instrumental, and choral programs have also achieved national recognition. Bethune-Cookman is a storied institution in Volusia County; with its students and alumni living and working in all area communities, and its programs impacting many cities. Just one example is Bethune-Cookman's WELE AM 1380 The Cat radio station, which is located in Ormond Beach and serves as a teaching tool for students and a reflection of the school's commitment to community outreach; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 23, 2020, as a day to welcome

DR. E. LaBRENT CHRITE

to Bethune-Cookman University and our Ormond Beach community, and urge all residents to join with me on this day in wishing Dr. Chrite much success in his position as University President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor