

Nettleford

gets nod

□ *Becomes 1st UWI graduate to be appointed Vice Chancellor*

PROFESSOR REX Nettleford has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI) to replace Sir Alister McIntyre who is retiring.

His unanimous appointment was made by the University's governing Council yesterday at a meeting on the Mona campus.

Professor Nettleford, now Deputy Vice Chancellor, is the first UWI graduate to be named Vice Chancellor in 50-year history of the regional tertiary institution.

Invitation

The UWI said his appointment will be from October 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000. He will, however, exercise the functions of Vice Chancellor from August 1, 1998, when Sir Alister goes on pre-retirement leave.

In accepting the University Council's invitation to serve as Vice Chancellor, Professor Nettleford paid tribute to his predecessor and indicated that it would be his intention to develop a strong team from the Pro-Vice Chancellors as presently constituted; and with the University Registrar, her deputy, and the University Bursar in support. In addition, the newly established Committee of Deans would be expected to be in ongoing dialogue with the core management team.

Regional integrity

Professor Nettleford also emphasised the need to maintain the regional integrity of the University and committed his team to building on the achievement of the past, so as to make the UWI truly an instrument of growth and development in the future.

Council concurred in the proposal of the Vice Chancellor-designate that with effect from August 1, 1998, and for a period of two years, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Marlene Hamilton, be assigned special responsibilities for administration and other matters, including science education, student relations and alumni affairs. Professor Hilary Beckles is to be appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor for undergraduate studies for the same period.

NETTLEFORD'S PROFILE

A FORMER Rhodes and Issa Scholar, Professor Rex Nettleford has served the UWI in several capacities. He joined the staff of the then University College of the West Indies in 1956 as resident tutor in the Extra-Mural Department.

Over the years, he has held several positions, including staff tutor in political education and government in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies (now School of Continuing Studies), director of studies in the Trade Union Education Institute, lecturer in the Department of Government and at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), director of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies (now School of Continuing Studies), Pro-Vice Chancellor (Outreach & Institutional Relations) and, since 1996, Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Professor Nettleford is a social and cultural historian and political analyst and has served as cultural advisor to the Jamaican Government. He is the founder, artistic director and principal choreographer of the internationally-acclaimed National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica.

An authority on development and cultural dynamics, he has served as a consultant in cultural development to UNESCO and the OAS. He was a founding Governor of the Ottawa-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He has lectured extensively on Caribbean political development in many countries.

Professor Nettleford has gained international recognition as author and academic. Also, he has been honoured by a number of institutions, including honorary doctorates from the University of Hartford, Illinois-Wesleyan University, the University of Connecticut, City University of New York and the Presidential Medal from Brooklyn College, CUNY.

Professor Nettleford has received several awards, including the Order of Merit (Jamaica), the Gold Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica, the Pelican Award from the UWI Guild of Graduates, the Living Legend Award from the Atlanta Black Arts Festival, the Zora Neale Huston-Paul Robeson Award and Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica.

The new UWI Vice Chancellor has also lectured widely and served as visiting professor at a number of institutions in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, India, Israel and South Africa.



- Dennis Coke

Professor Rex Nettleford, (left) the new Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, with outgoing Vice Chancellor Sir Alister McIntyre, at the University's special 50th anniversary convocation ceremony on the Mona campus on Saturday. ■