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Boston University School of Medicine

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NEWS

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MILTON RESIDENT APPOINTED DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Boston, Mass.--Milton resident Arthur J. Culbert, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health and socio-medical sciences and community medicine at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), was recently appointed BUSM's associate dean for student affairs. In this position, Culbert will be responsible for providing support services for students as they complete their medical education at the School.

Culbert, who has been an associate dean for educational programs at BUSM since 1986, is recognized as a leader in minority medical education. He has been an active participant in the development of the Modular Medical Integrated Curriculum program (MMEDIC) at BUSM since it began in 1977. Culbert has expanded early admission programs to include a consortium of minority institutions through an arrangement unique within medical schools today. He is the initiator of the Early Medical School Selection Program (EMSSP)--the first and only program in the country designed to increase the number of minority physicians through an early admissions program.

In 1985, Culbert established the Laboratory for Instructional Technology (LIT) at BUSM to provide computer-based technology to students and faculty alike. Two additional LIT's, which will open this fall, will help faculty include computer-based instruction as part of required courses. Culbert was recently involved in the first study to demonstrate that interactive video disc (IVD) instruction can improve medical students' performance.

According to BUSM Dean Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., Culbert is an excellent administrator and teacher. "His superb relationship with students

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and his in depth knowledge of the School should make him an appropriate successor for the late Dr. William F. McNary," says Chobanian.

Says Culbert: "Dr. William McNary created a legacy as the School's only dean for students, a position he held for 22 years. Every effort will be made to carry on in his tradition."

A dean for students in today's medical school must have an understanding of the educational process throughout all four years and the vision to establish the necessary support and advisory components to help students maximise their education, according to Culbert.

"An effective dean of students needs to ensure students are well prepared in basic medical sciences, problem-solving and the care of patients," he says. "In addition, there is a need for an understanding of the ever-changing and evolving health-care systems into which our graduates will enter. That knowledge and vision for the future form the foundation of a student's education both inside and outside the medical school classroom; that foundation will help produce the most effective physicians equipped for practice in the 21st century," he adds.

Culbert belongs to many professional organizations, including the American Sociologist Association, Generalists in Medical Education and the American Association of Medical Colleges Group on Student Affairs.

He holds a master's degree in communication research and a doctorate in sociology, both from Boston University.

Boston University School of Medicine is located in the South End of Boston between two of its principal teaching hospitals--The University Hospital and Boston City Hospital.