

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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Texas Southern University Names Dr. Sunny E. Ohia, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost



Texas Southern University has named Dr. Sunny E. Ohia as the new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, announced President John M. Rudley today, July 1, 2008. Dr. Ohia will join the TSU administration this September, in time for the fall 2008 semester. His appointment is subject to official approval by the Texas Southern Board of Regents at their next meeting.

Dr. Ohia, who is currently the dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Houston, has 16 years of academic leadership experience. He served the last five and a half years at UH. During Ohia's tenure, the UH College has experienced increases in total research expenditures by more than 400 percent. The number of endowed scholarships has increased by more than 120 percent to a total of more than \$1.5 million, graduate student enrollment is up approximately 70 percent, and total expenditures from State government and local sources are up more than 100 percent.

Since Ohia took the helm as dean, and spearheaded the initiative to recruit high quality faculty, the college has achieved a 50% net increase in growth in faculty FTE's.

"Dr. Ohia's experience in recruiting top students and faculty, in fundraising, and in research, are a great match for Texas Southern University," Dr. Rudley said. "We are extremely pleased that he is joining the leadership team, and know that he will bring a new energy and strategic direction to the academic programs at Texas Southern University."

"I am delighted about joining the students, faculty and staff at Texas Southern University. TSU is located in an environment that is favorable for rapid growth," Ohia said. "I hope to provide a clear vision and strong leadership by supporting initiatives that will increase the level of cooperation and understanding between academic

colleges/schools and units, establishing programs that will empower members of the faculty to strive for higher levels of development, and by providing an optimum environment for students to receive a high quality education. I will support initiatives that explore the use of alternative means to deliver quality undergraduate, graduate and professional education to both traditional and nontraditional students.”

Dr. Ohia adds, “I’m excited about the opportunity and challenges that the TSU environment will provide me as I assist President John Rudley in leading Texas Southern University into the future.”

Dr. Ohia received his bachelor of science degree in pharmacology and his master of science degree in pharmacology and therapeutics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He received his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Glasgow, in Scotland, United Kingdom. Prior to his tenure at the University of Houston, he served in a number of leadership positions at the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, including associate dean. He holds an adjunct professor appointment in ophthalmology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and in integrative biology and pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston.

He is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the US Pharmacopeia Convention, the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, as well as the Texas Pharmacy and the National Pharmacists Associations. Internationally he is a member of the British Pharmacological Society, the International Society for Eye Research, and the Society for Free Radical Research-Africa. He is a member of the board of trustees of the Association of African Biomedical Scientists, the Nigerian Association of Pharmacists, and Pharmaceutical Scientists in the Americas.

Dr. Ohia is the principal investigator on a number of federal research grants and is the author of more than 150 research abstracts and articles in his field. He holds two U.S. patents for his scientific work and has applied for three international patents and six additional U.S. patents.

Dr. Ohia is married and the father of two children.