

= Heather Knight (educator) =

Heather Joy Knight is an American educator , who currently serves as President of Pacific Union College . She is the first woman to serve in that role and the only African @-@ American woman to lead a college affiliated with the Adventist Church in the North America . Born in Jamaica , her family moved to the United States when she was nine . After completing her undergraduate degree at Oakwood College , she did her graduate work at Loma Linda University . She received her doctorate at Stanford University and pursued postdoctoral research at Harvard University .

She began her career on the faculty of the University of the Pacific , becoming an award winning associate provost until she was asked to take over as provost at Andrews University . In 2009 , she became the 21st President of Pacific Union College . She has been accused of disregarding academic freedom during her tenure as president , most recently causing the departure of almost half of the Department of Psychology faculty .

= = Biography = =

= = = Personal life = = =

Heather Joy Knight was born in Jamaica and lived there for the first nine years of her life . She immigrated to the United States , settling in the Bronx , New York , with her parents Austin and Herolin Evelyn . Knight is married to professor and outreach chaplain , Norman Knight . They have five sons and three daughters .

= = = Education = = =

Knight began her formal education while in Jamaica under the British system . After her family moved to the Bronx , New York , she attended the High School of Music and Art and Performing Arts , featured in the 1980 Academy Award winning movie Fame and the 1982 TV Series , majoring in vocal performance .

Knight began her undergraduate education at Howard University in Washington , DC but transferred a year later to Oakwood University , then known as Oakwood College , in Huntsville , Alabama where she graduated in 1982 with a bachelor 's degree in English . Two years later , she got her master 's degree in English from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda , California . In 1991 , she received her doctorate , also in English , from Stanford University in Palo Alto , California . She completed postdoctoral studies in management and leadership in education at Harvard University in Cambridge , Massachusetts .

= = Career = =

= = = University of the Pacific = = =

Knight began her career at the University of the Pacific in Stockton , California as a professor of English in 1988 . She later became the assistant provost and then in 1997 , the associate provost for Faculty Development , Diversity and Special Programs . During her time at the University of the Pacific , she is credited with leading the school 's first Diversity Committee as well as spearheading a major initiative that is credited with nearly doubling the number of minority faculty at the University of the Pacific . In 1997 , Knight became the youngest faculty member to receive the University of the Pacific 's distinguished Eberhardt Teacher / Scholar Award . The award was established to reward exemplary teaching and scholarship .

= = = Andrews University = = =

In 2006 , Knight accepted a call to serve as provost of Andrews University in Berrien Springs , Michigan . Her work there involved oversight of Andrews various operations and academic enterprises . Knight was responsible for overseeing over 150 academic programs , 227 full @-@ time faculty , 3 @, @ 400 students studying on the Berrien Springs campus , as well as another 4 @, @ 000 students studying in Affiliation and Extension programs around the world , and a \$ 75 million budget .

= = = Pacific Union College = = =

Knight was selected as President of Pacific Union College in July 2009 and took office in September 2009 . She was officially inaugurated on April 15 , 2010 in a ceremony at the Pacific Union College Church . Her selection was historical , in that she is both the first black president and first female president in Pacific Union College history . Furthermore , she is the first (and currently only) black woman to lead a North American Adventist college . When Knight took over , Pacific Union College had experienced two consecutive years of decline in enrollment , however , in her first year as president enrollment increased by 11 % . After taking over at Pacific Union College , Knight has been noted for her wide experience at both Christian and secular schools and her ability to build consensus between various constituent parties . In December 2010 , Knight received an award from the local Chamber of Commerce recognizing her attentiveness to and willingness to work with the community .

= = Educational philosophy = =

= = = The Adventist Advantage = = =

In the second all @-@ school colloquy of the 2009 ? 2010 school year at Pacific Union College , Knight spoke on " Integrating Faith and Learning : A Higher Education Imperative " and her Adventist Advantage platform . She reported that institutions of higher learning are taking a fresh look at religion and spirituality and argued that it provides Adventist Education " with multiple opportunities to showcase what we have been doing so very well for so many years . " She introduced her theoretical framework to meet these opportunities , titled the Adventist Advantage . The framework consists of seven main points : meaning and purpose found by a connection with Christ as our personal savior ; health , wellness , and a wholesome lifestyle ; education , caring about the life of the mind and lifelong learning ; ethics and morals ; generous service ; diversity ; and stewardship of the earth , which is tied to the Sabbath .

= = = From Good to Great = = =

Heather Knight studied Stanford colleague Jim Collins ' concepts outlined in his book Good to Great . Knight uses the ' good to great ' idea as a theoretical framework for institutional improvement . Knight asserts that , ? We are called to a really high level of excellence based on the exceeding excellence of God Himself . Therefore , we have an important role to play as pacesetters and models of best practices in higher education . " The January , 2011 edition of the Pacific Union Recorder reports on renovations to the campus accomplished under Knight 's leadership . Pacific Union College 's dining commons and campus center , a major hub of student life , had not been updated in 30 years . The Recorder quotes Knight , ? When I think about our campus going from good to great , I ? m including every area of campus , including our facilities . My vision is that within the next several years the entire campus will be transformed . ?

= = = Statement on Faith and Reason = = =

In late 2010 , a biology professor at Pacific Union College was falsely accused of promoting theistic evolution , contrary to official church belief . This followed the controversy over the teaching of origins at La Sierra University over similar accusations . As president , Knight was quoted in a statement affirming Pacific Union College 's commitment to church beliefs while emphasizing the school 's dedication " to understanding contemporary issues surrounding science that sometimes conflict with specific theology . "