January 8, 2016

To the Howard University Community:

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Achille Messac to Howard University as Dean of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences. In his new role, Dr. Messac will provide academic and administrative leadership, vision, and oversight for undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture and Design, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Messac joins Howard University on January 11, 2016 and will report to Dr. Anthony Wutoh, Howard University Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

Dr. Messac comes to Howard University from Mississippi State University where he had served in roles as Dean of Engineering, Professor of Aerospace Engineering, and Earnest W. and Mary Ann Deavenport, Jr., Chair (2013-2015). Throughout his career, Dr. Messac has held academic and administrative leadership positions with increasing responsibilities, including Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at Syracuse University (2010-2013), and prior to that as Acting Department Head for the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering Department (2008-2009), at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he was also elected and served as the Faculty Senate President.

Dr. Messac earned his Bachelor of Science degree, Master of Science degree, and his Ph.D., from the Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1981, 1982, and, 1986, respectively. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), where he serves as Director for Aerospace Structures and Design; additionally, Dr. Messac is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

As a respected leader in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, Dr. Messac has received numerous awards throughout his career including the AIAA Multidisciplinary Design Optimization Award. In addition, Dr. Messac has authored or coauthored more than 240 peer-reviewed publications, and frequently serves as industry expert and conference speaker.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Messac bring his extensive leadership experience and vision to the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences and Howard University.
In addition, I want to thank Dr. Lorraine Fleming for her contributions to the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences as Interim Dean, and also her leadership in directing the University’s successful Periodic Review Report accepted by the Middle States Association of Higher Education, and reaffirming the University’s accreditation through 2019-2020. Dr. Fleming will continue to provide leadership to the College as Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

In Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
President