Welcome Interim President A. Cherrie Epps, Ph.D.

A. Cherrie Epps, Ph.D. was appointed Interim President of Meharry Medical College on May 21, 2013 by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Epps has upheld the mission of Meharry since 1994 serving in various roles including Professor of Internal Medicine, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine from 1997 – 2002. Dr. Epps is the only African-American woman with a Ph.D. degree to become Dean of a U.S. medical school. She holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from Howard University. Prior to assuming the role of Interim President, Dr. Epps was Senior Advisor to the President and Dean Emerita in the School of Medicine.

Dr. Epps has executed an extensive career in academic medicine and is a noted expert in the accreditation process, particularly for the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Her research interests include Medical Education with an emphasis on minority participation and preparation, Immunological Studies in Autoimmune Diseases, Immunological Embryology, Transplantation Immunology and Hepatitis-Immunology. She has published in several peer-reviewed journals including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, and *Journal of the National Medical Association*. In 1993 she was commissioned by the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences to write “Increasing Minority Participation in the Health Professions – The Problem of Under-representation and An Inventory and Analysis of Effective Strategies and Problems.” In 2007, Meharry Medical College established the A. Cherrie Epps Center for Educational Development and Support in recognition of Dr. Epps’ efforts to foster excellence in learning and teaching medicine, dentistry and graduate studies and research.

Throughout her career Dr. Epps has held key appointments on boards and committees. She served on the Minority Health Advisory Committee for the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services and the National Board of Medical Examiners and is an emeritus member of the Georgetown University Board of Regents.
Most recently, Dr. Epps co-authored with Ms. Patricia M. Hammock, *An Act of Grace: The Right Side of History* which is an historical and chronological account of the Meharry journey from the Salt Wagon story to the Renaissance period.

Dr. Epps comes to her leadership post during a time of significant transformation. Her focus will be to promulgate continued progress by successfully leading Meharry through the accreditation process for all three schools, continuing to enhance the student experience through technological advances, construction and new academic programs, and serving the community with quality and compassionate health care services, especially for those in need.