



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor*

801 Cathedral of Learning  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-4223  
Fax: 412-383-9640

Patricia E. Beeson  
Provost  
Senior Vice Chancellor

October 19, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Since 2001, Larry Davis has served as dean of the School of Social Work, as the founding director of Pitt's Center on Race and Social Problems, and as a valued member of the Council of Deans. It is with appreciation for all he has contributed to the University that I write to let you know of his decision to step down as dean at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Larry was recruited to the University of Pittsburgh from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was a professor of social work and psychology and held the E. Desmond Lee Chair in Ethnic and Racial Diversity. The first to hold Pitt's Donald M. Henderson Chair, Larry has driven the School of Social Work along a dynamic path of growth and transformation. Under his leadership, the school has advanced to the point of now being ranked among the top 10 social work schools in the United States by *U.S. News and World Report*, and TheBestSchools.org has ranked the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program 4th in the country.

As the founding director of the school's Center on Race and Social Problems, the first center of its kind to be created in any American school of social work, he has worked tirelessly to advance applied social science research on race, ethnicity, and color. By greatly elevating the school's research profile and building the fine reputation of its PhD and undergraduate programs, and through the creation of new academic programs and community outreach efforts, Larry's visionary leadership has positioned the School of Social Work for continued recognition and success—motivating countless Pitt students to work toward the common goal of equity for all.

Larry earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at Michigan State University; and a master's degree in social work, a master's degree in psychology, and a PhD degree in both social work and psychology from the University of Michigan. A member of the National Association of Social Workers, the Council on Social Work Education, the Society for Social Work and Research, and the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development, Larry was inducted into the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare in 2015. Over the years, his work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Science Foundation. He has written, edited, or co-authored seven books and is also co-editor in chief of the *Encyclopedia of Social Work*, 20th Edition.

His scholarly accomplishments as a pioneer in his field have been recognized through numerous awards, including the 2007 Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award; the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Michigan School of Social Work; the 2016 Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award by the Council on Social Work

Education (CSWE); the 2017 Richard Lodge Prize from Adelphi University School of Social Work; and the 2018 Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Distinguished Career Achievement Award. He is the first person to ever receive both the SSWR and the CSWE Career Achievement awards.

It has been a pleasure to work with Larry, both in his role as Dean of the School of Social Work and as a member of the Council of Deans. His leadership and commitment to the University's broader goals have been a vital part of Pitt's recent progress and he will be deeply missed. I know you will all join me as we celebrate his outstanding service and thank him for his ongoing dedication to the University of Pittsburgh. A search committee will be formed to identify his successor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia E. Beeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patricia E. Beeson