



Memorandum to: Governing Council
Academic Board
Business Board
University Affairs Board
UTM Campus Council
UTSC Campus Council
College of Electors
Alumni Council of Presidents
University of Toronto Alumni Association – Board of Directors
Principals and Deans
Professionals Managerial Staff
Confidential Staff
President, UTFA
President of Employee Unions
Presidents of APUS, GSU, SCSU, UTMSU and UTSU

From: Meric Gertler, President

Date: May 16, 2024

Subject: **Election of the 35th Chancellor of the University of Toronto**

I am pleased to announce that, at its meeting yesterday evening, the University's College of Electors elected Dr. Wesley J. Hall, ICD.D to serve as the next Chancellor of the University of Toronto, effective July 1, 2024. He will be the University's 35th Chancellor since its founding in 1827.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Hall on his election to this key position.

Elected by the College for a three-year term, the Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University, presiding at convocations, conferring all University degrees, and acting as ambassador to the wider community and our more than 680,000 graduates worldwide. The Chancellor also plays an essential role in advancing the University's interests within the local, provincial, national, and international arenas.

Dr. Hall's election follows a rigorous search process conducted by the College of Electors and chaired by Ms. Candice Jay. The College, which was established by the Governing Council in 1971, comprises members representing the constituent alumni associations of the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) and

is charged with the responsibility of electing alumni governors and the Chancellor.

Dr. Hall is Executive Chairman and Founder of WeShall Investments, Kingsdale Advisors and the BlackNorth Initiative. WeShall Investments is a private equity firm with a diverse portfolio of companies predominately led by BIPOC entrepreneurs. Dr. Hall is a widely respected and inspirational business leader, and deeply committed to creating opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and communities. His professional and personal accomplishments and talents make him eminently qualified to take on the position of Chancellor.

Dr. Hall is well known for his deep commitment to equity, leading initiatives to help advance opportunities in the Black community. The BlackNorth Initiative is committed to removing systemic barriers impacting the Black community. He has improved the lives of thousands of children in the Caribbean and Canada, donating both his money and time. And he has been instrumental in mentoring many of Canada's Black entrepreneurs and leaders.

In 2021, Dr. Hall partnered with the Rotman School of Management to introduce a new course on Black entrepreneurship and leadership, the first of its kind in North America. Developed in partnership with the BlackNorth Initiative, and with Dr. Hall as the lead instructor, the course has proven to be highly successful.

In 2023, the University of Toronto conferred a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* on Dr. Hall in recognition of his innovative corporate and entrepreneurial leadership, and for his outstanding service to the local community, as a champion for equity on behalf of the Black community. He has also received honorary doctorates from five other universities.

Dr. Hall's achievements in business, and his work to advance and broaden opportunities for the Black community have been recognized with numerous awards. In 2021, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2022, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recognized him as Canadian Business Leader of the Year. Long celebrated for his generosity and his commitment to charitable causes, Dr. Hall's Board service includes SickKids Foundation, Pathways to Education Canada, TIFF, and Huron University College. He also served on the Capital Markets Modernization Task Force for the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Dr. Hall will succeed Dr. Rose Patten, whose second term as Chancellor comes to an end as of June 30, 2024. At that time, she will have completed the maximum length of service in the role permitted by the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chancellor Patten for her tireless and exceptional work on behalf of the University over the past six years. I know it is deeply appreciated by the entire University community, and I look forward to paying tribute to her in the weeks to come.