

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation

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Newcombe Foundation Announces Next Executive Director

Princeton, NJ – The Trustees of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation are pleased to announce that Thomas N. Wilfrid has been named as the Foundation's next executive director, effective January 1, 2008. He will be replacing the Foundation's founding director, Janet A. Fearon, who has announced her retirement after 28 years of service. Ms. Fearon will continue as one of the Foundation's five trustees.

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation is an independent foundation that began in 1979 as the result of a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Newcombe, a Philadelphia philanthropist. The Foundation continues Mrs. Newcombe's support of students as they pursue degrees in higher education by maintaining scholarship and fellowship programs that are in keeping with her lifelong interests. Currently, the Foundation funds a major national fellowship program in the humanities and social sciences at the doctoral dissertation level, and three scholarship programs for undergraduates. Individuals do not apply to the Foundation directly, but by contacting a participating college or, for the doctoral fellowships, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Since 1981, the Newcombe Foundation has awarded more than \$43 million in 32,000 scholarships and fellowships, and its corpus has grown from the original bequest of \$16 million to more than \$53 million. It has also stimulated and supported the development of Newcombe Endowed Scholarship Funds at 53 colleges and universities, which now have a combined market value of more than \$9 million. For further information, see the Foundation's Website at www.newcombefoundation.org.

Dr. Wilfrid is Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Mercer County Community College, where he has been employed since 1969 and recently completed nineteen months as Acting President. Dr. Wilfrid holds a bachelor's degree in physics from The Cooper Union, a master's degree in physics from Princeton University, and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pennsylvania. He has chaired the New Jersey Community College Academic Officers' Association and is currently vice-chair of the Mercer County Workforce Investment Board. In 2003, he was a recipient of the Community College Spirit Award from the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. An active participant in the life of Lawrence Township, his home community, Dr. Wilfrid has served as mayor and board of education president. He is currently in his sixth year as chair of Lawrence Township's planning board. Dr. Wilfrid chairs the steering committee for the Eggerts Crossing Village Community Project.

According to Ms. Fearon, "Dr. Wilfrid will bring to the direction of the Newcombe Foundation his extensive experience as a professor and college administrator, his concern for the educational aspirations and welfare of a wide range of students, and a fine record of service to his community. With the other Trustees, I look forward to engaging Dr. Wilfrid's knowledge, skills and creativity in continuing and expanding the Foundation's scholarships and fellowship programs."

Foundation Trustee J. Barton Luedeke, President Emeritus of Rider University, chaired the selection process. According to Dr. Luedeke, "I have known Dr. Wilfrid for over 30 years and have always admired and respected his creativity, energy, thoughtfulness, good judgment, and unequivocal integrity. His appointment offers the Foundation a wonderful opportunity for continued growth and service."

Upon accepting the Trustees' offer, Dr. Wilfrid said, "I have great respect for the mission and the accomplishments to date of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation. I look forward to working with the Foundation's Trustees to preserve, extend and enlarge the Foundation's mission in the coming years."

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