Written by Adam Hicks
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5:30 p.m. - Lees-McRae College will have a new president effective June 1.

The school's board of trustees announced that Dr. Barry M. Buxton will be the 15th president in the 110-year history of Lees-McCrae College.

Lees-McCrae spokesperson Meghan Wright said Buxton currently serves as Vice President for Special Projects at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Buxton is a Blowing Rock native. He's served as president of science and history museums in North Carolina, Texas, and Georgia. Buxton was also presented with a service award from the Blue Ridge Parkway for historic studies he conducted of Mabry Hill, Moses H. Cone Estate, Davey Farm, and Brinegar Cabin.

Buxton is also an esteem writer who has written and edited over a dozen books. Wright said Buxton's centennial history of Blowing Rock, A Village Tapestry, was recognized as the best local history in North Carolina in 1989.

Buxton and his wife Deborah have two sons: Loren, a technology executive in Nebraska, and Peter, a television and commercial producer in New York City.

Upon his nomination, Buxton said, "The opportunity to serve as Lees-McRae's president is a calling I could not ignore. It's where God wants me to be. It's where we're intended to serve next and we're thrilled to be returning to our roots in Appalachia. This is a wonderful chance to give back to the place and the people we love."

*Photo courtesy of LMC