



## New provost named

**J**eff Hittenberger, who held senior positions in VU's School of Education from 1999 to 2006, has been appointed provost of Vanguard University.

"It is with a great deal of joy and gladness that I announce that the board has unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Jeff Hittenberger as Vanguard's provost/vice president for academic affairs," said VU president Carol Taylor in a statement. "Dr. Hittenberger had very strong support from the search committee as well as faculty and staff that participated in the interview process. I also received a number of emails from faculty and staff who had worked with Jeff and were excited about the possibility of his returning to this strategic position of leadership."

Under Hittenberger's prior leadership as VU's dean of the School of Education, assistant provost for planning and accreditation, and director of the graduate program in education, he helped the University build one of the premier graduate programs in education in Orange County. Vanguard was the first university in the state of California to have its elementary and secondary credential programs accredited under new statewide regulations.

Hittenberger grew up as the son of missionaries in Haiti during the reign of dictator Papa Doc Duvalier. He is fluent in French and Haitian Creole. He earned a PhD from the University of Southern California in educational planning, policy and administration. His bachelor of arts degree is from Evangel University. He also earned an administrative services credential from San Jose State University and pursued graduate studies at Fuller Theological Seminary and l'Universite Mohamed V in Rabat, Morocco, on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

He was hired by Vanguard's education program in 1999 and led a team in undertaking the major challenge of making VU an early adopter of California's more rigorous credentialing standards. VU became the first university in California to be approved for this new credential training.

Hittenberger most recently served as director of graduate programs and professor of education at Evangel University,



beginning in 2006. He brings significant experience in teaching and leadership in Christian and secular institutions, and has a strong record of organizational leadership that cultivates cohesive teams and improves education through strategic planning, accreditation processes and professional development and mentoring. He continues to make academic and professional presentations and write for scholarly publications.

"Jeff has a deep commitment to diversity and missions, and comes to us with a sense of calling to join our efforts to build a strong Vanguard," says Taylor.

"I believe in Vanguard University," Hittenberger says. "From the time of Huldah Needham's vision concerning this 'vine of His planting' to the present, this institution has blessed the world in incalculable ways. As Vanguard approaches the ninetieth anniversary of its founding, the opportunities it has to serve as a global center for equipping people to engage in God's loving, redemptive, reconciling mission in multiple professions across many cultures are extraordinary."

Jeff and wife Christine have two children, Ben, 16, and Brianne, 14.