



**Greenwood Leflore Hospital**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **GREENWOOD LEFLORE HOSPITAL NAMES NEW CEO**

GREENWOOD, Sept. 30, 2020 -- Greenwood Leflore Hospital, a publicly owned healthcare organization serving North Central Mississippi, announces Jason A. Studley, FACHE, as new Chief Executive Officer, effective Oct. 19, 2020. Studley brings to GLH 20 years of experience in building and leading healthcare systems in Alabama, Georgia and Virginia, where he was most recently President of Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital.

Studley was hired following an extensive nationwide search that included more than 200 applicants, according to GLH Board Chairman Harris Powers. "I am absolutely confident the Board and Search Committee made the best choice in selecting Jason," Powers said.

Other Board members agreed. "He has a proven track record and is definitely the person to get us where we need to go," Vice Chairman Marcus Banks said. Secretary Emma Bell added: "I gave Jason an A+. He was the best candidate, and his wife is a real plus. I am certain they will serve this community well." Board member Hank Hargrove said, "Jason is very intelligent and highly qualified. He's committed to pursuing a higher level of local healthcare for our community."

Board Member Tracy Shelton noted the importance of the Board coming together to find the right CEO to lead GLH forward while providing "the continuity and stability we've enjoyed under the leadership of our interim CEO, Gary Marchand."

Marchand, a veteran healthcare executive and former longtime CEO of Memorial Hospital in

Gulfport, MS, stepped into what was to be a three-month position at GLH in October 2019. “Gary provided extraordinary leadership during a very difficult time,” Powers said. “He calmly steered GLH on a course that made it possible for us to attract a very qualified CEO to guide us confidently into the future.”

Marchand endorsed his successor, who completed a health services administration fellowship at Gulfport Memorial Hospital early in his career, in 2001. “I find Mr. Studley to be a dedicated, experienced healthcare executive who will assure the ongoing success of GLH,” said Marchand. Physicians on the Search Committee echoed positive comments. Pleased with the thoroughness of the search and “the fact that the Board made the right decision,” Roderick C. Givens, MD, called Studley “the perfect combination of experience and enthusiasm.” John F. Lucas III, MD, anticipates that Studley, on track to receive a doctorate in health administration and with a record of innovation, will be skilled in “restoring the economic position of the hospital.”

At Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital in South Boston, VA, Studley established new service lines to meet community and local industrial needs, launched telemedicine programs to expand patient interactions and care access, and led an initiative for the overall Sentara Healthcare System (serving Virginia and North Carolina) that improved quality indicators by 13 percent while saving the system \$13.4 million in its first year. Serving Halifax County and surrounding areas, Sentara Halifax was designated a “Top 100 Rural Hospital” in 2019 by The Chartis Group.

Previously, Studley was President and CEO of Augusta, Georgia’s Trinity Hospital, a 231-bed affiliate of Community Health Systems, Franklin, TN. His leadership led to the hospital receiving the Top Performer Key Quality Measures Award (2012-2015) from The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (TJC) and being named a Top 10 Hospital in Georgia (2012, 2014). He directed expansions and development of new service lines that generated significant revenue growth while employee satisfaction grew from 87 to 98 percent, the highest achieved by the hospital. Physician satisfaction increased from 41 percent to 100 percent during his tenure.

For his mentoring of new healthcare executives and in-service programs on fluid changes in healthcare, Studley received the 2014 Service Award from the American College of Healthcare

Executives (ACHE). An ACHE Fellow since 2007, he holds a Master of Health Administration from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN; a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, and is a candidate for a Ph.D. in Health Administration from A.T. Still University in Kirksville.

He and his wife, Jennifer, and their two children, Bryce and Samantha, are active in their church and community. Studley was a Virginia gubernatorial appointee to the Henrietta Lacks Commission, created by the state's General Assembly to develop plans for a state-of-the-art cancer research and treatment center. He is a member of Strategic Planning and School Funding Initiatives for Halifax County, the Truman State University Health Science Advisory Board, and the Central Virginia Healthcare Executive Group. In Georgia he was a member of the Georgia Hospital Association and Georgia Association of Healthcare Executives, the American Heart Association Executive Leadership Team and Chamber of Commerce. Jennifer has served as an advocate for the local public library, a community college board member and helped create a training platform for parents who were forced to homeschool due to Covid-19.

Co-owned by the City of Greenwood and Leflore County, Greenwood Leflore Hospital is a 208-bed Joint Commission accredited hospital, offering medical and surgical care capabilities including a network of 18 physician clinics.

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