



Johnny C. Whitehead has been appointed interim director of the Department of Public Safety at Lincoln University.

“We are excited to welcome Mr. Whitehead to our student success team at Lincoln University,” said President Brenda A. Allen. “His credentials and background in law enforcement are commendable as is his own deep commitment to empowering students to achieve their full potential. I am also delighted to share that Mr. James Connor has chosen to remain with the University under the supervision of Mr. Whitehead.”

Whitehead brings more than 30 years of experience in municipal and campus safety to the university, located about 50 miles west of Philadelphia.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to work with the Lincoln University community, a community with a rich and vibrant history,” she said.

A native of Baltimore, Whitehead holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Baltimore and a master’s in applied behavioral science from Johns Hopkins University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy as well as a member of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Whitehead began his career in law enforcement in 1976 when he joined the Baltimore Police Department. Three years later, he joined the Baltimore County Police, rising through the ranks to eventually become a colonel.

Nearly 20 years later, Whitehead left to serve as the chief of police and director of public safety at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He led the police department through the state accreditation process in which it achieved full accreditation from the

Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission and national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

After his tenure in Massachusetts, Whitehead went to Houston where he served as the chief of police and the director of public safety at Rice University.

While at Rice, Whitehead is credited with reforming the campus police force by improving training, upgrading technology and achieving accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Whitehead engaged the local community in social justice issues by participating on panels and forums with faculty members and students. He also created and taught an undergraduate course on policing and trust at Rice.

Whitehead is married to Kim Whitehead, who retired from the Baltimore County School System as an area superintendent. Their son, Joshua, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst.