The Heartland Community College Board of Trustees voted unanimously in their April 20 regular meeting to approve the appointment of Dr. Allen Goben, Ed.D., as the College’s next president.

The April 20 vote was the culmination of a national search process. Students, staff and community representatives participated on a presidential search committee, which selected a total of three finalists. Based on the committee’s recommendations, coupled with feedback from public forums and a series of interviews with the Heartland board of trustees, a contract was extended to Dr. Goben to become the second president of Heartland Community College. He will assume the presidency July 1, 2010.

Dr. Goben, 42, will come to Heartland from Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Kentucky, where he currently serves as president/CEO. His specializations include strategic institutional prioritization, resource development and fiscal stewardship, and community outreach with a distinctive focus on diversity and engagement. Under his leadership, HCTC was named one of the “Best Places to Work in Kentucky” in the large employer category by several statewide agencies. Prior to his three-year presidency at HCTC, he was executive vice president for the American Institute of Business College of Business in Des Moines, Iowa. In addition, Dr. Goben is a national expert on technological applications for higher education development, formerly serving as senior executive for Higher Education Development with the SAS Institute, a software company that transforms industry-specific data into predictive insights about performance, customers and markets.

After attending Indian Hills Community College and Iowa Central Community College, Dr. Goben earned a bachelor of science degree in history from Iowa State University (1993), a master of science in education degree in school counseling from Drake University (1999), and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from the esteemed Community College Leadership Program (CCLP) at the University of Texas at Austin (2003). He also earned distinguished graduate status from the nationally prominent CCLP program in 2009.
The board identified several key elements in their decision to extend a contract to Dr. Goben, including his draw to the community and to Heartland Community College specifically. Of particular interest though was Dr. Goben’s collaborative leadership and management style.

“The board and its constituents agreed that Heartland's next president should be a progressive, natural leader,” Chadwick said in a recent College news release. “We sought someone with executive experience who can help the College continue to gain national exposure while receiving recognition for its already world-class reputation. We've succeeded in meeting all those criteria with Dr. Goben.”

Complementing Dr. Goben’s connection to Heartland Community College is his personal experience with Challenger Learning Center objectives and with the stateside development of Confucius Institutes—non-profit public institutions that aim to promote and support Chinese language and culture internationally. Both of these organizations have become crucial components of Heartland’s culture and development.

Dr. Goben, wife Kelly, and their three daughters currently reside in Perry County, Kentucky.