

PAUL QUINN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paul Quinn College Names Veteran NCAA Division I Coach James Stafford as Head of Men's Basketball Team

Dallas – September 12, 2023 – Paul Quinn College is excited to announce that it has hired long-time college basketball coach James Stafford as its Interim Men's Basketball Coach. Prior to coming to Paul Quinn, Coach Stafford was a member of the staff at Prairie View A&M University. He also has served as the head coach for Ranger College.

Coach Stafford spent three years at Ranger College, including two years as the school's head coach. During his tenure at Ranger, Stafford contributed to the men's team qualifying for back-to-back appearances in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division 1 Championship games, while being ranked in the top five nationally in almost every defensive category. The Rangers were also ranked #1 in the NJCAA polls in 12 of the 15 weeks during the 2019-2020 season.

"It is highly unusual to conduct a head coaching search two weeks into a new school year," said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, president of Paul Quinn College. "To do so and have that search produce someone like Coach Staff is highly unusual. Everyone we spoke to commented on his experience, character, and ability to build relationships. We are thrilled to call him a Quinnite."

Coach Stafford has extensive coaching experience developing players from high school to Division I college teams. He began his collegiate coaching career at Siena Heights University, and later as head coach at Detroit Renaissance High School and his alma mater, Redford St. Mary's High School, where he achieved conference Coach of the Year. He later moved to the Division I level by joining the coaching staff at the University of Wisconsin, and held coaching positions at Duquesne University, University of Toledo, Florida Atlantic and Southern Methodist University. While at SMU, Coach Stafford recruited top ranked individuals in several conferences while also developing several All-Conference and Freshmen of the Year players.

In 2007, Stafford moved into the business end of basketball operations by founding several basketball-related organizations, including Basketball 4 Kids, Inc., a non-profit organization designed to help parents become better youth-league coaches and leaders. He also became owner of the Plano Wolves Basketball Club and Director of DI Premier Basketball, which evaluated talent and provided players to the Nike EYBL.

In 2021, Stafford served as the head coach for the Drive Nation 16U EYBL team. The team posted a 40-5 record and was runner-up in the Nike National Peach Jam Championship game televised nationally on ESPNU. Five members finished ranked on the ESPN Top 100 Class of 2023. He has also coached nationally ranked players Ron Holland (G-League Ignite) and Jordan Walsh (Boston Celtics) to name a few.

"I am incredibly honored to join the Quinnite Nation as the new men's basketball coach. My vision for this program is simple: to inspire our student-athletes to reach new heights both on and off the court. Together, we will build a legacy of excellence, teamwork, and determination

that will make our entire community proud. I can't wait to get started and see what we will achieve together," said Stafford. "I look forward to working alongside our talented athletes and the entire Paul Quinn community as we embark on this exciting journey to success."

Stafford earned a bachelor's degree in human services from Siena Heights University where he was inducted in the Hall of Fame.

Paul Quinn College is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, Red River Athletic Conference, and United States Collegiate Athletic Association. The Paul Quinn men's basketball team won the 2022 USCAA national championship in March 2022. Paul Quinn College school offers men's and women's basketball and soccer teams as well as club sports including women's volleyball, cheerleading, and cross-country.

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ABOUT PAUL QUINN COLLEGE

Paul Quinn College is a private, faith-based, four-year, liberal arts-inspired college that was founded in 1872, by a group of African Methodist Episcopal Church preachers in Austin, Texas. The school's original purpose was to educate freed slaves and their offspring. Today, Paul Quinn proudly educates students of all races and socio-economic classes under the banner of its institutional ethos, WE over Me. It is the first Urban Work College and only minority-serving, federally recognized work college in America. Paul Quinn is viewed as one of the most innovative colleges in America, one that continuously expands the boundaries of higher education and community advocacy in its quest to eradicate intergenerational poverty. For more information, visit www.paulquinn.edu.

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