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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOB SKIPPER, DIRECTOR
MEDIA RELATIONS

GORDON BAYLIS NAMED VP FOR RESEARCH AT WKU

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – Dr. Gordon C. Baylis is Western Kentucky University’s new Vice President for Research and President of the WKU Research Foundation.

Dr. Baylis is professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of South Carolina and director of the Statewide Brain Imaging Center. He will start Aug. 16.

“I am delighted that Dr. Gordon C. Baylis is our new Vice President for Research. He will also serve as the President of the WKU Research Foundation,” President Gary Ransdell said. “Gordon brings impressive research credentials to WKU. As Vice President for Health Sciences South Carolina, and before that as Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Associate Vice President for Research at the University of South Carolina, he has led significant research activity and helped grow research related volume at a very high level. He has also served as Associate Dean for USC’s College of Liberal Arts, so he knows the various forms of engaged research across the disciplines. He also is seasoned in the areas of commercialization of intellectual property, and will help our faculty transfer WKU technology to the Kentucky workplace. This is good news for economic development in our region. Our faculty will enjoy working with Dr. Baylis as we define the research related future for WKU. He will be a superb addition to our executive leadership team at WKU and will partner closely with our new Provost, Dr. Gordon Emslie who begins his duties in a few days.”

Dr. Baylis is also a member of the Center for Advanced Imaging Research at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has been vice president for Operations at Health Sciences South Carolina. At USC, he has been associate provost for Academic

Initiatives, associate vice president for Research and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He has two bachelor's degrees from the University of Bristol; a master's degree from Sussex University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford.

"I decided to become a Hilltopper because of the high quality faculty and the innovative leadership," Dr. Baylis said. "WKU is at an exciting and unique point in its history, being ready to redefine the role of the comprehensive university as an institution of learning, scholarship and creative activity that is tightly engaged with the community. In a changing world, where today's knowledge rapidly becomes obsolete, a university such as WKU must educate students in the production of new knowledge and creative activity. At the same time, all disciplines within WKU are poised to play an ever greater role in the economic fortunes and the quality of life of the state. President Ransdell already has brought WKU a very long way; now I look forward to being part of his new leadership team that will take WKU to the next level – rooted in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but with an international reach."

The vice president reports directly to the university president and is responsible for the growth and development of WKU's overall research program. The position has primary duties focused on supporting faculty research and creative activities and the economic development mission of the University.

- WKU - a leading American university with international reach -

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