



Date: May 3, 2018
Contact: Lauren Guthrie
Harrison Middleton University
Phone: 877.248.6724
Fax: 800.762.1622
Email: lguthrie@hmu.edu

For Immediate Release

Harrison Middleton University Announces New President

Harrison Middleton University announces that Joseph Coulson, PhD has been selected as President and Chief Academic Officer of the university, effective July 1, 2018. David Curd, JD, EdD, Founder and current President will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the university, now a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational institution.

Dr. Coulson has served in schools for seventeen years as a classroom teacher, English Department Chair, senior administrator, English professor, and Director of Teacher Training and Professional Development. He twice received “Master Teacher” awards, served continuously as a “Mentor Teacher,” and specialized in the design and implementation of extracurricular programs. He studied at Wayne State University and Oxford University, and he holds a PhD in American Literature from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

From 1999-2003, Coulson worked at the Great Books Foundation as Senior Editor, Editorial Director, and Chief of Staff, managing the development, content, design, and production of Great Books publications and programs. In 2014, he returned to the Great Books Foundation and served a term of four years as President and CEO, overseeing the Foundation’s outreach and business operations during a period of restructuring, rebuilding, and rebranding.

Outside his academic career, Coulson has earned recognition as a novelist, poet, and playwright. His first novel, *The Vanishing Moon* (2004), was selected for the Barnes & Noble Great New Writers series and won the Book of the Year Award, Gold Medal in Literary Fiction, from *ForeWord Magazine*. His second novel, *Of Song and Water* (2007), was a finalist for the Great Lakes Book Award. Both novels earned critical praise and wide distribution in French and German translations, and *The Vanishing Moon* later received the distinction of being published as a Harvest Book, the perennial literary series from Harcourt.

Coulson is the author of three books of poetry: *The Letting Go*, *A Measured Silence*, and *Graph*. His stage play, *A Saloon at the Edge of the World*, a noir drama showcased by Theater Artists of Marin, was a finalist for the Bay Area Critics Circle Award in 1996. He has been the recipient of the Tompkins Award in Poetry and the David Gray Writing Fellowship, and his essays have appeared in several journals and anthologies including *The Barnabe Mountain Review*, *Walt Whitman of Mickle Street*, *The Critical Survey of Poetry*, and *The Greenfield Review*.

About Harrison Middleton University

Founded in 1998, Harrison Middleton University is now a 501(c)(3) educational institution offering Master of Arts, Doctor of Arts, and Doctor of Education programs. Harrison Middleton University is a great ideas, great works, great conversations, distance learning university that offers graduate education in the humanities with concentrations in imaginative literature, natural science, philosophy and religion, and social science. Harrison Middleton University promotes student-faculty scholarship through research, discussion, and the development of collaborative publications. To learn more about Harrison Middleton University, visit the website: www.hmu.edu.