**Contact:**

Mary Claire Imbro

501.519.1772

[mediarelations@harding.edu](mailto:mediarelations@harding.edu)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Harding University welcomes Dr. Amy Emerson as newest Board of Trustees member**

*Dr. Emerson contributes program development expertise to support university’s mission*

**SEARCY**, **Ark**. (Dec. 1, 2023) — Harding University has announced the appointment of esteemed pediatrician Dr. Amy Emerson to its Board of Trustees. Dr. Emerson brings more than two decades of leadership expertise in pediatric care, family advocacy and community engagement to support Harding’s Board as it propels the university’s faith-centered and student-focused mission forward.

"Harding's Board of Trustees is proud to welcome Dr. Amy Emerson to join in this important work," said Charles Ganus, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "Amy knows Harding, the importance of our mission and has the characteristics we seek in a board member."

Dr. Emerson leverages significant leadership experience and strategic vision to this new role through leadership positions, local and statewide. Most notably, she has served as the director of the Hope-Driven Parenting program at Hope Rising Oklahoma, received a gubernatorial appointment to the board of Juvenile Affairs and held positions on the board of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness.

“The Harding community eagerly anticipates the contributions Dr. Emerson will bring to our Board of Trustees,” said Dr. Mike Williams, president of Harding University. “I am confident that her rich skillset, tenacity and faith will help our institution continue building an inspired future for the university and its students.”

After completing her undergraduate degree at Harding University, she went on to complete her residency at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. Dr. Emerson obtained a specialty in developmental-behavioral pediatrics. Over her career, Dr. Emerson has dedicated her time and skills consulting for nonprofits, spearheading various initiatives aimed at supporting families and enhancing child welfare, including reactivating Tulsa’s Reach Out and Read early literacy program and the Tulsa Educare Talking is Teaching campaign. She also serves as president of Lilyfield, a Christ-centered ministry devoted to providing safe and stable families for at-risk children and youth.

“With each passing year, the value of having attended a Christ-centered university, namely Harding, becomes more apparent to me,” said Dr. Emerson. “I'm grateful for the opportunity to join a deep-rooted legacy of men and women who, for over a century, have been committed to the development of great leaders for our world. I look forward to leveraging any talent I've been entrusted with for the support of our students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

Aligned with the university’s commitment to its Christian values, Dr. Emerson serves as an active member of The Park Church of Christ in Tulsa, Okla. Alongside her husband Clint and their four children, she remains dedicated to missions through local and global faith-based outreach.

[**Click here to view her headshot**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bzDVMuY6Q8zMIhuNyCNMkCubCOADf2fJ?usp=sharing)**.**

**About Harding University**

Harding University is a private Christian, liberal arts university located in Searcy, Arkansas. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and celebrating its centennial year, it is the largest private university in the state. Harding’s student body represents students from across the U.S. and more than 50 nations and territories. The University offers more than 110 undergraduate majors; 14 preprofessional programs; more than 40 graduate and professional programs; as well as numerous study abroad opportunities including locations in Australasia, Peru, Europe, Greece, Italy and Zambia. For more information, visit [Harding.edu](http://www.harding.edu).

***###***