

2017

Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): Editorial 02

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"Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): Editorial 02" (2017). *Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993)*. Paper 17.
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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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A14

Monday, April 19, 1993

EDITORIALS

Moving on

Two college presidents who made their mark

One's tall, laid-back and shies away from the public eye. One's compact, intense and prefers working a crowd. Both worked tirelessly to improve their individual institutions and consequently made important contributions to Philadelphia's civic life. And now both are leaving town.

Sheldon Hackney and Ronald J. Temple, presidents of the University of Pennsylvania and Community College of Philadelphia, respectively, may have different personal styles, but they share similar commitments to education in the broadest sense.

Mr. Hackney presided over one of the most effective fund-raising campaigns in Ivy League history, raising \$955 million of a \$1 billion goal so far, with two years to go. Also under Mr. Hackney's leadership, hundreds of Penn students and faculty became involved in West Philadelphia's community life by tutoring, providing free health screening and more. These programs have gone a long way in cleaning up Penn's high-handed, isolationist reputation in the neighborhood and opening the minds of Penn students and faculty to the valuable role they can play.

Mr. Temple, whose tenure here was

less than three years, compiled an impressive record as well. A fierce advocate for his 14 acres on Spring Garden Street, Mr. Temple successfully raised Community College's profile. Enrollment has risen every year since 1989, reaching 25,000 last fall. And he did it without seeking, or getting, more city funds, despite the growing pains that make classroom space a necessity. He made a strong case that CCP graduates (more than 400,000 so far) represent a core of educated workers who can make Philadelphia more attractive to businesses.

Mr. Temple has been selected as chancellor of the eight community colleges of Chicago, the second largest community-college system in the nation. It's a good job for a hard-charger.

Mr. Hackney's task as head of the National Endowment for the Humanities suits his personality as well. As the liaison between academia and the federal government, he will have to pick his way through a political minefield to succeed in elevating the intangibles of culture — art, music, literature — to an appropriate level of public respect.

We wish them both Godspeed.