

A local publication, the Greensburg Record-Herald, recently published an article extolling Dr. Chowning's life of accomplishment. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Greensburg Record-Herald, Dec. 23, 2015]

CU'S JOHN CHOWNING ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS OF JAN. 1

(By Joan McKinney)

Dr. John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president at Campbellsville University and a former chair and board member of the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees, has announced his retirement effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of Campbellsville University, with whom Chowning worked for 17 years, said, "John Chowning is one of the most gifted individuals I have ever met. He is a great thinker, and he is wise in his approach to topics across a broad spectrum.

"John is a very good writer, an accomplished speaker, teacher and preacher. He is detailed and is a well-read public policy analyst on a broad array of topics.

"We will miss him on a day-to-day basis, but we are so fortunate he is serving in a new part-time role for the university."

Chowning is retiring after 26 years of service to Campbellsville University. However, he will continue to work part time as executive assistant to the president for government, community and constituent relations beginning in January 2016.

Chowning became involved in fundraising with Campbellsville University in 1989 and became a member of the university's Board of Trustees in 1992.

He continued on the board for the next seven years, serving as chair in 1996 and 1997. He became a full-time employee in February 1998.

Dr. Joseph L. Owens, who is serving his fifth term as chair of the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees, said, "Dr. John Chowning is a shining example of selfless service that has made a difference in many lives at Campbellsville University. He is highly motivated, personable and a spirit-filled man of God.

"His love for the Lord is exemplified in his Christ-like character, as well as his concern for excelling in diversity, diplomacy and the development of bridge-building relationships."

Serving as executive vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president has been "a very humbling and rewarding career path in which God's divine guidance has been evident in the progress CU has seen," Chowning said.

He taught as an adjunct for several years in Campbellsville University's political science department. He has served as chair of the university's diversity committee, strategic planning and University Council.

Chowning founded and has directed the Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy at Campbellsville University which has hosted a wide array of speakers and forums on a host of public policy issues.

Chowning has been involved in many endeavors at Campbellsville University including race reconciliation, and establishing Dialogue on Race, a project dear to his heart. He has served as a leader of Greater Campbellsville United, the focus of which is to help create an environment of equality and oppor-

tunity for all residents of Campbellsville-Taylor County and the heartland region of Kentucky.

Chowning was one of the founding members of Team Taylor County (Campbellsville-Taylor County Economic Development Authority) and served for several years as chair and continues as a member of the board.

He received the Governor's Development Leadership Award in 1999 and was named Citizen of the Year for Campbellsville-Taylor County two separate years by the Campbellsville-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce.

Chowning was founding member of the Center for Rural Development and former chair; founding member of the Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corporation and former chair; and founding member and former board member and secretary of Forward in the Fifth education reform group.

With his work with the Economic Development Authority in Campbellsville, he was instrumental in organizing a dislocated worker program at Campbellsville when Fruit of the Loom closed in Campbellsville in 1997-98.

With the support of CU presidents Dr. Ken Winters and Carter, Chowning proposed the university's Technology Training Center and coordinated efforts to secure funding for the project by working with U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Chowning has left his mark on Campbellsville University with the naming of the Pence-Chowning Art Gallery, the Chowning Art Shop, the Chowning Executive Dining Room and the Chowning Patio.

He and his wife, Cathy Pence Chowning, have established an endowed scholarship fund at Campbellsville University that provides annual scholarship awards to qualifying minority students.

In his role as a pastor, Chowning is an active member and former secretary of Taylor County Ministerial Association and is a member of the executive boards of Taylor County Baptist Association and Zion District Association of Baptists.

He has led his church, Saloma Baptist Church of which he has served as senior pastor since 1994, to become a member of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, the state's historic black Baptist state convention—one of two historically Anglo Baptist churches to join the GABKY. He has been active in the life of the GABKY for the past several years.

Chowning has a master's of public administration (planning emphasis) from Eastern Kentucky University; a bachelor of arts in political science from Transylvania University, and an associate of arts from Lindsey Wilson College.

"From serving as trustee chair and vice chair and two terms as a board member to the past 18 years in my current role, my association with Campbellsville University has been one of the most rewarding and meaningful affiliations of my career," Chowning said.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator BOXER as vice chairman of the committee, that the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2015 be printed in the RECORD. The Committee issues this report today, January 28, 2016, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2016.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 114TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the "Act") calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report not later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2015 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 55. (In addition, 2 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2015.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 36.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 13.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 7. (This figure includes 2 matters from the previous calendar year carried into 2015.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a de minimis nature: 5.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2015, the Committee staff conducted seven new Member and staff ethics training sessions; 20 Member and committee office campaign briefings (includes one remedial training session); 20 employee code of conduct training sessions; 13 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 27 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; two private sector ethics briefings; and five international briefings.

In 2015, the Committee staff handled approximately 10,265 telephone inquiries and 2,784 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2015, the Committee wrote approximately 930 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 793 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 83 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2015, the Committee received 3,179 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote