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Former WKU provost and dean dies after cancer battle

By MICHAEL J. COLLINS michael.collins@bgdailynews.com

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Cheryl Stevens

Western Kentucky University Provost Emeritus Cheryl Stevens passed away Thursday morning.

WKU President Timothy Caboni announced her passing on Facebook after her “lengthy battle with cancer.”

“When I arrived at WKU in 2017, I met frequently with dean Stevens,” Caboni said. “Her advice, insight and leadership made my transition to president much easier. I am forever grateful for her selflessness and passion for our beloved institution.”



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He said Stevens “faithfully” served as chief academic officer from 2019 to her retirement in 2021.

“On behalf of the entire WKU family, I extend my deepest and most sincere condolences to her family and loved ones,” Caboni said.

Stevens contributed to several notable projects on campus, including establishing the Women in Science and Engineering initiative.

Stevens came to WKU in 2012 as the dean of the Ogden College of Science & Engineering. She previously worked as chair of the department of chemistry and associate dean for scholarship at Xavier University in Louisiana.

She also served on the board of directors for the American Institute of Physics starting in 2016.

Funeral services have not yet been announced.

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Michael Collins

Reporter