

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

Contact: John Weeks

DALLAS--James H. Cheeks, a biologist and former educator, has been named assistant to the president for minority affairs at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, it was announced today.

In the new post Mr. Cheeks will develop and coordinate all equal-employment opportunity efforts for the Health Science Center, said Dr. Charles C. Sprague, Center president, in announcing the appointment.

The UT Health Science Center is comprised of Southwestern Medical School, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.

As the institution's first fulltime administrator in the area of minority affairs, Mr. Cheeks will work closely with the President's Equal Opportunity Task Force, a panel of faculty and staff formed by Dr. Sprague to review and recommend improved programs for the hiring and promoting of minority and women employees. Dr. Daniel Foster, professor of internal medicine at Southwestern Medical School, is chairman of the task force.

A native of Eunice, La., the 32-year-old Mr. Cheeks has taught biology in high school and college during an eight-year academic and business career. For the last four years, he has been a medical service representative for a pharmaceutical firm (Eli Lilly & Co.) in St. Louis.

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He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., and has done additional study at Dillard University, New Orleans. In 1965-68, he taught at Capitol High School in Baton Rouge.

More recently, he has lectured in biology during the last four years at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Ill., and at Forest Park Community College in St. Louis.

Mr. Cheeks resides with his wife and two children in Plano.

Commenting on Mr. Cheeks' appointment, Dr. Sprague said:

"The development of a more positive program of equal career opportunities has a high priority at our institution. We've made much progress, but we want to raise our sights higher.

"With his background combining experience in the scientific and academic areas with a demonstrated talent for working with people, Jim Cheeks is well qualified to help us achieve these goals. We are pleased he has assumed this important responsibility."

August