



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. Announces Hiring of Chief Equity Officer Jackson to Oversee Development of Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Little Rock— On Monday, April 12, Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. announced Dionne Jackson, Ed.D., as chief equity officer (CEqO). Jackson began Monday and will focus on ensuring adequate access to opportunities and necessary support structures both within City government and across Little Rock. She will also establish the City’s first Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The creation of a chief equity officer was first proposed by Mayor Scott’s transition board in the citizen-led roadmap for governance, the [Scott Script](#). Subsequently, in his 2021 [State of the City](#) address, Mayor Scott further expressed his commitment to increasing Little Rock’s growth and progress with equity as the central theme in future planning.

“I’m thrilled that Dr. Jackson will use her expertise to help strengthen our city as we rebound from the pandemic and focus on rebuilding,” Mayor Scott said. “We’ve seen unprecedented business and jobs growth since my administration began. It is time to bolster our city’s capacity with intentional efforts to make Little Rock a more equitable place to live, work, and play.”

“I’m excited about the possibilities in our city, and look forward to helping create more opportunities for Little Rock residents to thrive,” Dr. Jackson said. “Mayor Scott’s transition team established an excellent roadmap for my role. I look forward to engaging with our community to better understand and address existing impediments to equity, and working with stakeholders to create the necessary support systems across city departments and throughout Little Rock.”

Prior to accepting the position of CEqO, Dr. Jackson worked in the field of education for 25 years, last serving as executive director of AR Kids Read. Jackson was the inaugural chief diversity officer at Hendrix College, leading efforts to recruit, develop and support underrepresented students and faculty while advising executive administrators regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion matters. She earned her Doctor of Education from Baylor University, a Master of Science in Education at the University of Central Arkansas, and her Bachelor’s of Arts from Hendrix College. Jackson is an alumna of Leadership Greater Little Rock Class XXXV.

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