**West Virginia State University Friday, March 7, 2014**

**Academic Affairs R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.**

**Faculty Senate Report Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**Welcome Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya**

Academic Affairs welcomes Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya as our new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Jayasuria brings to the University a wealth of administrative leadership experience, and a variety of skills that will help propel our students, faculty, and academic staff to new levels. Each of us should give Dr. Jayasuria our full support so that we can work to make West Virginia State University the most student-centered, research and teaching, land-grant university in the state of West Virginia, and beyond

**2015 Self-Study Process**

The current 2015 Self-Study process will be perhaps the most important endeavor that we undertake in the next few months. Our self-study will be an in-depth study of our past and present with implications for our future. The study should not reflect perfection, but rather, it should be an honest examination of our past with a greater emphasis on the present. The Higher Learning Commission will focus on our present and planning for future improvements.

The purpose of self-studies is to improve the institution. The study is a total campus self-evaluation for us to self-identify and make necessary corrections and/or indicate future planning for improvement. An institution that is undergoing a self-study must have a positive attitude and think well of its students, faculty and staff.