


5-25-2017

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### Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Cedarville Grad Nominated for SBC Leadership Position" (2017). *News Releases*. 475.  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 25, 2017**

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## **Cedarville Grad Nominated for SBC Leadership Position**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** – Walter Strickland, a 2006 graduate of Cedarville University, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The nomination will be voted upon at the annual SBC meetings on June 13-14 in Phoenix, Arizona.

“I’m humbled that a long-standing leader like Dr. James Merritt is willing to put such great confidence in me,” said Strickland. “Along with gratitude, I have a deep sense of responsibility to serve a family of churches that means a great deal to me.”

After graduating from Cedarville University, Strickland earned his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He is scheduled to complete a PhD from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland by the convention in June.

For the past four years, Strickland has served as special adviser to the president for diversity and as an instructor of theology at SEBTS. He also leads Southeastern’s Kingdom Diversity Initiative, which seeks to increase the seminary’s ethnic minority and female enrollment and equip students to serve in a multicultural world. According to his mission statement, Strickland’s passion is to “equip people to flourish in their context from a deep commitment to God’s design.”

“I’m grateful for my years at Cedarville because it imparted a deep love for Scripture and its authority,” said Strickland. “This value remains with me and is the cornerstone of all I do and say.”

“Being first vice president of the SBC would be a wonderful opportunity to serve a domination that has invested in me,” he continued. “Serving in this role is an opportunity for me to say “thank you” and encourage us to fulfill the Great Commission more effectively.”

Strickland and his wife, Stephanie, live in Wake Forest with their two daughters, Kendra and Kaiya.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit [www.cedarville.edu](http://www.cedarville.edu).