Dr. Edward Lama Wonkeryor, a leader with a background in journalism and academia has taken over as new president of William V. S. Tubman University (TU) on July 1, 2016, becoming the second person to hold that position. Dr. Wonkeryor succeeds Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell who has led the University from its foundation in 2009.

Dr. Davis-Russell announced in 2015 that she planned to retire by June 2016. Mr. Johnny C. Woods Jr., Board Liaison and Interim Vice President for Administration, spoke of the standardized search process for a new president. The search process began with the vacancy announcement that was widely advertised on various websites including TLC Africa, the Executive Mansion website, and in some local dailies for a period of five (5) months. Giving a brief insight into the search process, Mr. Woods, added that the Board established a search committee that included a broad spectrum of representatives from higher education institutions, TC-TU Alumni Association, TU Faculty Senate, National Commission on Higher
Education, the local Harper Community, larger Liberian community, TU Foundation Board and selected Board of Trustees members. “The Search Committee reviewed several candidates including their application materials and their interview performance following which a detailed assessment report of the candidates, including a shortlist of the best candidates, was forwarded to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees reviewed the Search Committee’s report and concurred with same by forwarding a recommendation containing more than one candidate through Board Chair, Dr. Emmet A. Dennis. Chair Dennis forwarded the list to the President of the Republic of Liberia and Visitor to the University. The Visitor reviewed the Board’s recommendation and forwarded the selected candidate (by nomination), in this case Dr. Wonkeryor to the Board for ratification and appointment. The Board ratified the President’s choice and appointed Dr. Wonkeryor as President of Tubman University, effective July 1, 2016,” Mr. Woods said.

Dr. Wonkeryor, 62, served as provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and professor of Media and Communication and African Studies at Cuttington University (Liberia), and Assistant professor of African American Studies at Temple University in the United States of America from 2003-2013. He holds a Ph.D. in African American Studies (Temple University, 1995), an M.M.C. (Master of Mass Communication), University of South Carolina, 1980), and a B.A. in Communications (Rowan University, 1978). His research interests are: African political history, African American history, mass communication, race and ethnic relations, security studies, military studies, peace and conflict resolution, globalization, and democratic governance.

Dr. Wonkeryor has authored and co-authored several books. He has published in the Encyclopedia of New Jersey, the International Studies Journal, Journal of International Studies and Development, and the Liberian Studies Journal, among others. He is presently working on his latest book, ‘Globalization and Its Implications for Africa.’ He has presented papers at national and international conferences, including the Oxford Round Table Forum, Oxford University, England; Yale University, New Haven, CT; Cornell University, Cornell Institute for African Development, Ithaca, New York; Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Distinguished Lunch Lecture Series, Program in African Studies, Princeton University;
Distinguished Scholar Dinner Series, The Mercatus Center, George Mason University (Capitol Hill Campus), Washington, DC; Rutgers: The State University of New Jersey (USA); and the University of Liberia (Monrovia), among others. Dr. Wonkeryor is married to Cynthia Zigbuo Wonkeryor and they have three children and three grand-children.

Tubman University came into being by an Act of the Liberian Legislature, transforming William V.S. Tubman College of Technology (TC) into the "new" William V.S. Tubman University (TU) on September 14th, 2009. The University is comprised of six colleges - the College of Agriculture & Food Science, College of Education, College of Engineering & Technology, College of Health Sciences, College of Management & Administration, and College of Arts & Sciences. The impact of the University cannot be overlooked as the third graduation held on May 31, 2016 brings the total number of graduates from the University to 428. The University takes pride in community outreach and is implementing programs in Grand Cavalla and Pedebo communities respectively.