The Food Bank For New York City, the city's foremost hunger-relief organization, has appointed Dillard alumna Margarette Purvis to be its new president and chief executive officer, effective Oct. 1, 2011. Purvis previously served as the Food Bank's vice president of programs and services from 2001 to 2006. She succeeds Dr. Lucy Cabrera, who announced her retirement in January after serving as president and C.E.O. of the Food Bank for the past 23 years.

"I am honored and thrilled to rejoin the Food Bank, an organization I know and care deeply about," said Purvis, who was selected from a candidate pool of over 200 individuals. "In today's fragile economic environment, the Food Bank has consistently and successfully tackled food poverty on multiple fronts. I look forward to working closely with the board of directors, donors, staff, and our extensive membership network to address the very real and growing demand for hunger-related services."

"Margarette is an accomplished and respected leader with a long track record of successfully advocating for the impoverished and underserved both nationally and in New York City," said Rev. Henry Belin, chair of the Food Bank's board of directors. "After an extensive search, the board selected Margarette because of her deep knowledge and experience working within our organization, her passion for the issues, and her critical insights into ways we can move forward in tackling hunger at its root causes."

Purvis graduated from Dillard University in 1995 with a degree in urban studies and public policy. She later studied policy analysis and nonprofit management at the Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the New School for Social Research. She is the C.E.O. and principal of the Purvis Consulting Group, an Atlanta-based firm she founded in 2007 that develops fundraising strategies for businesses, nonprofits and government agencies. Prior to

joining the Food Bank For New York City, Purvis was the developer and director of Bailey House's INVEST, the country's first employment training program for people living with HIV and AIDS.

The Food Bank For New York City has been fighting hunger for 28 years through a program of food distribution, income support and nutrition education. The Food Bank helps provide New Yorkers with 400,000 free meals every day.