

Dr. Henry Lawrence McCrorey

He had a distinguished career in education. McCrorey was born in 1863, graduated from Biddle University in 1892 and from the university's seminary three years later. He taught in the high school department at Biddle and was later promoted to chair the Greek Exegesis and Hebrew Department in the Seminary.

McCrorey was elected President of Biddle University in 1907 and served in this capacity for 40 years. He was the second African American President of Biddle University. He headed the university during a period of growth and development which resulted from the donations of several significant benefactors. Mrs. Johnson C. Smith's donation alone funded the establishment of a Science Hall, two large dormitories, three homes for teachers and a church. In 1923, the name Biddle University was changed to Johnson C. Smith University.