ITHACA, New York (AP) -- Cornell University chose a cardiologist and leader in research ethics as its next president, only the 12th in the Ivy League school's 141-year history.

David Skorton, president of the University of Iowa since 2003, said he had no immediate grand plans for change at Cornell but would work to strengthen its ties with the communities it serves.

His first job, he said, will be to listen.

"I will have open meetings, open forums, an open-door policy and calling bingo in the dorms at night, trying to get the students to talk to me and tell me what's really on their minds," Skorton said Saturday after being chosen by a unanimous vote of Cornell's board of trustees.

Skorton takes office July 1, succeeding Jeffrey Lehman, the first alumnus to guide the school. Lehman stepped down in June after less than two years, citing differences in strategic vision with the college's trustees.

Former Cornell President Hunter Rawlings III, a past Iowa president who worked with Skorton, is serving as interim president.

Skorton, 56, has focused on diversity, economic development, research ethics, health sciences and public service at Iowa. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a medical degree from Northwestern University, once played saxophone as a professional jazz musician in Chicago, and hosted a jazz radio show on the Iowa campus.

Skorton's wife, Robin Davisson, was appointed to faculty positions in the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and Weill-Cornell Medical College.

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