An accomplished molecular biologist and academic leader, Wendy Raymond will become the 16th president of Haverford College on July 1, 2019. Since 2013 she has served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Davidson College, where she has overseen a significant reinvestment in faculty positions, research support, and curricular development. As Davidson's chief diversity officer, Raymond has been leading a multidimensional effort to broaden and deepen faculty diversity, equity, and inclusion. From 2014 through 2016, she was chair of the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering, a Congressionally-mandated advisory committee to the National Science Foundation, on which she served since 2010.

Prior to Davidson, Raymond was professor of biology at Williams College, where she began teaching in 1994 with specialties in molecular genetics. She ran an active research laboratory with funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. From 2004 to 2008 she was program director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s undergraduate science program at Williams involving science outreach to K–12 schools and research partnerships with other colleges. In parallel, Raymond developed deep expertise in promoting diversity in the sciences and served as co-director of the Symposia on Diversity in the Sciences at Harvard University, the University of Washington, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. From 2006 to 2009 she was co-principal investigator on a Spencer Foundation Award for Excellence and Innovation in Higher Education. After chairing Williams’s Committee on Diversity and Community, Raymond was named the College’s first associate dean for institutional diversity. She has gone on to gain national prominence for her work on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in academia, the sciences, and liberal arts institutions.

Raymond is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University. She earned her Ph.D. at Harvard in biochemistry followed by an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship in genetics at the University of Washington. She is married to geologist (and Haverford alumnus) David Backus ’82. Their son, Caleb, is twenty-three years old.