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President Salme Harju Steinberg of Northeastern Illinois University Announces her Plans to Leave the University

Chicago – Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) President Salme Harju Steinberg announced her plans to leave the university in a letter to the campus community. Steinberg has been the president of NEIU for the last 11 years and a part of the NEIU community since 1975 as a tenured professor of history and service as department chair and provost. She will continue in her position as president until her replacement is appointed and can begin to hold office in 2007.

NEIU Board of Trustees Chair Nancy Masterson also wrote a letter to the university community in which she expressed “great regret” on behalf of the board about Steinberg’s planned departure. She commented that President Steinberg “served us all brilliantly in a variety of demanding circumstances and fought hard for us during difficult economic times.”

Under Steinberg’s leadership, Northeastern’s student enrollment has grown by 20%, and the university has come to serve an increasingly diverse student population. She has strengthened the university’s status as a federally-designated Hispanic Serving Institution and has served as chair of the Governing Board of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. She currently holds a number of national leadership positions

in support of Hispanics in higher education. Additionally, President Steinberg has been recognized for reaching out to the African-American, Asian, and Polish communities because of her support for curricular, co-curricular, recruitment, and retention efforts. In addition, she is chair of the Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, a member of the Cinema/Chicago Governing Board, and a member of The Chicago Network.

Under Steinberg's leadership, and because of her commitment to providing a quality education at an affordable cost, the university has developed a broad range of programs to support first-generation students as well as heritage programming to build a multi-cultural knowledge base across the university. Northeastern's historic prominence in teacher education has been affirmed by a series of major grants including the two largest GEAR UP grants in the United States, designed to prepare students for success in high school and university.

Steinberg has worked to make NEIU a widely acknowledged center for the arts, has spearheaded global education opportunities for students, has expanded resources for student scholarships and increased private giving to the university by alumni, friends, and foundations. She has led in the planning, maintenance, rehabbing, and beautification of the campus, and has shepherded the Board and the campus through a multi-year plan for an integrated technology system. She has led the effort to attract an outstanding group of scholar-teachers to Northeastern.

“On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I express our gratitude for President Steinberg's extraordinary devotion to this university,” continued Nancy Masterson. “As she prepares to leave her position of leadership at Northeastern, we believe that we have a

first rate faculty, strong educational programs, the best educational facilities ever enjoyed by our university, and that our students have greater opportunities for success than ever in the past.”

Interview and photo opportunities are available upon request.