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## **U.S. Representative Rahm Emanuel Secures \$100,000 for New Education Building at Northeastern Illinois University**

**Chicago** – Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) in Chicago has received \$100,000 from the Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill secured by U.S. Representative Rahm Emanuel (D-IL). NEIU has designated the money for a new Education Building which will be designed to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century pedagogical needs of the State of Illinois.

“Preparing excellent teachers is one of our highest priorities,” said NEIU President Salme Harju Steinberg. “The new building will be designed to prepare the next generation of educators and the future leaders of the educational system. Teacher training programs need to utilize the latest pedagogical methodologies and technology, while at the same time insuring that teachers are prepared to work in a multicultural and global society.”

Northeastern is one of the largest producers of education degrees and careers in the State of Illinois. Annually the College of Education prepares approximately 450 certified teachers, administrators, and counselors through 14 baccalaureate programs and seven graduate programs. “Northeastern Illinois University is an institution dedicated to

educating Chicago's future. This new building will aid in their tradition of academic excellence," said Emanuel. "I am proud to have helped secure this funding. There is no better investment than the education of Chicago's young people."

Notably, Northeastern is nationally recognized as an awardee of education degrees to Hispanic and Asian students. According to *Black Issues in Higher Education*, in 2003-2004, Northeastern ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Illinois and 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation in undergraduate education degrees awarded to Hispanics, and 20<sup>th</sup> in the nation in undergraduate degrees awarded to Asians. "Given the proven track record of success in earned degrees by members of underrepresented groups, Northeastern has learned a great deal about the support services that are necessary for student success," said President Steinberg. "The Education Building will provide more opportunities for systematic tools of support for first-generation and dual-language students."

The new Education Building will be located on the main campus in Chicago, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue. It will be over 119,000 NASF and will include general and specialized classrooms, clinics/laboratories for undergraduate and graduate students, and teachers returning for continuing education. The building will be completely wired for new technologies including distance education classrooms, a conference center, and a research and professional development center.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has recognized the importance of this project and has included the request on the capital priority list for five years. Private and state monies will be combined to make the Education Building the best state-of-the-art facility possible in the Midwest.

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