



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2006

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Dr. Sharon K. Hahs Named President of Northeastern Illinois University



Chicago – The Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) Board of Trustees has named Dr. Sharon K. Hahs as the next President of NEIU effective February 1, 2007. With more than 30 years experience in higher education, Dr. Hahs most recently served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Special Projects at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) in Edwardsville, Ill.

“NEIU’s Board of Trustees chose Dr. Hahs after a nationwide search that began for the Board in November 2005. Dr. Hahs has a dynamic vision for the future of urban universities such as NEIU,” said Nancy Masterson, chair, NEIU Board of Trustees. “She has a demonstrated record of developing new academic programs, a firm commitment to academic excellence and a strong record of faculty support which are areas of special importance to the Board. Dr. Hahs understands the Illinois legislative process and is committed to a collaborative vision for the university. NEIU is already a strong, vibrant and diverse community and Dr. Hahs offers NEIU the chance to move forward to even greater achievements.”

Dr. Salme Harju Steinberg who has served as President of Northeastern Illinois University since 1995 said, “I am delighted to welcome Dr. Sharon K. Hahs to Northeastern Illinois University. I’m confident that she will bring many strengths in leadership to the university.”

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Dr. Hahs earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in inorganic chemistry from the University of New Mexico and her B.A. in chemistry from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill. Dr. Hahs was a member of the chemistry faculty at Metropolitan State College in Denver (1974-84) where she was promoted to Associate Professor and Professor. She also served as Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for the 1982-83 academic year.

Dr. Hahs served as Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg (1984-94) and then as Dean of the newly-formed College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE (1995-2000). On July 1, 2000, Dr. Hahs was appointed Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. SIUE has about 13,500 students in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business, Dental Medicine, Education, Engineering, Nursing, and Pharmacy. Dr. Hahs was instrumental in building campus-wide collaborative efforts that resulted in national recognition for the quality of SIUE's academic programs.

"I am honored and delighted to have been selected as Northeastern Illinois University's next President," said Dr. Hahs. "I am committed to working closely with faculty and staff to enhance relationships with university, city, state, and student group leaders."

Interview and photo opportunities are available upon request.

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