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ABOR to Begin Northern Arizona University Presidential Succession Plan
Current NAU President John Haeger Announces Plans to
Step Down at End of Contract Term

(Phoenix, AZ) – The Arizona Board of Regents today announced it will begin to implement a presidential succession plan for Northern Arizona University after President John Haeger announced he will not seek an extension of his current contract which runs through June 30, 2015. Haeger was appointed as president of NAU in 2001.

“Over the last 12 years President Haeger has transformed NAU into an institution anchored in providing an exceptional undergraduate academic experience with complementary research, graduate and distance learning programs that support Arizona’s unique student and economic needs,” said ABOR Chair Rick Myers. “NAU, and the entire State of Arizona, shine brighter because of President Haeger’s tireless dedication to advancing student success and higher education. The Board looks forward to working with President Haeger to build on that great work through the duration of his contract.”

NAU’s footprint has grown tremendously under President Haeger’s leadership. Total enrollment has increased 34 percent since his term began in 2001. And, as part of the Regents’ goal of increasing access and affordability to higher education, Haeger spearheaded several initiatives to give more students more choices for bachelor’s degrees at different price points and challenged the status quo on traditional delivery models.

He launched an innovative partnership with NAU-Yavapai, offering bachelor’s degree programs that allow students to complete the program in three years at a fraction of the cost of attending a residential campus. Haeger also developed nationally recognized 2NAU program, establishing partnerships with our state’s community colleges to ease the transfer process; accelerated online and distance learning; and ushered in a new era of higher education through the launch of Personalized Learning, which offers degree completion through online, competency-based learning versus the traditional credit hour. NAU is one of a handful of institutions across the country to be accredited to offer competency-based degrees.

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President Haeger also led NAU through a significant financial crisis when its state funding was cut by \$60 million, oversaw major renovations to the Flagstaff campus, and fostered a research environment to address social and economic challenges and serve the needs of the local, regional and state communities.

“Stepping away from the most important and meaningful work I have ever done will not be easy, but I know this is the time to formally begin the process,” President Haeger said.

“Northern Arizona University has established itself as an innovative leader at a pivotal point in higher education, and I want to be sure that faculty, staff and students are in the best position to carry that momentum forward.”

ABOR anticipates discussing preliminary guidelines for the NAU presidential search at its upcoming Board meeting on September 26-27. While the Board will discuss these guidelines at its upcoming meeting, the official search is not expected to begin until early 2014.

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The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. For more information visit www.azregents.edu.