

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, December 4, 2008

Five Finalists Named for Northern State Presidency

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents announced today five candidates who are finalists to become the next president at Northern State University.

Regent Kathryn Johnson, who chairs the presidential search process, said the finalists will visit the campus in Aberdeen Dec. 11-12 for scheduled meetings with constituents. A search is under way to replace Patrick Schloss, who left earlier this year to become president of Valdosta State University in Georgia.

The finalists are:

- **William R. Fannin, Odessa, Texas, provost and vice president for academic affairs, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin.** As provost at UT Permian Basin, Fannin has worked on a wide range of institutional issues, including curriculum development, faculty development and support, and educational support services. In addition to his administrative duties, he is a professor of management. In the past seven years, this Texas university has enjoyed enrollment growth of more than 55 percent by addressing specific regional needs. Fannin's career includes service in four public university systems. He was previously dean of the College of Business at Idaho State University, and also held administrative and faculty positions at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and the University of Maine at Orono. Fannin holds a Ph.D. in business administration (management) from Texas A&M University, as well as the M.B.A. and a B.A. in government, both from The University of Texas at Austin.
- **Charles F. Harrington, Pembroke, N.C., provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.** Harrington is the chief academic, planning, and operations officer for a comprehensive regional institution serving 6,300 students. In an effort to meet North Carolina's regional needs, he recently worked with faculty to develop new degree programs at Pembroke in nursing, geosciences, information technology, interdisciplinary studies, entrepreneurship, engineering, and media integration. He is also a professor of economics and finance, and serves on the University Honors faculty. Harrington also has held administrative posts at the University of Southern Indiana and State University of West Georgia. His Ph.D. degree in higher education administration is from Ohio University. He also holds a M.S.

in non-profit management from Drexel University, and a B.A. in philosophy from Ohio University.

- **Alan D. LaFave, Aberdeen, S.D., dean of the School of Fine Arts, Northern State University.** LaFave has been on the faculty at Northern State University since 1991, and has served as the university's fine arts dean since 2000. His previous administrative positions, all at Northern, include dean of graduate and extended studies, associate fine arts dean, and music department chair. LaFave credits the growth in size and quality of the NSU fine arts program to an aggressive and positive marketing approach, quality faculty and students, reputable programs, and increased scholarship opportunities. He earned his doctor of musical arts degree and master's in clarinet performance, both from Arizona State University. He is also a Northern State alumnus, receiving a bachelor's degree in instrumental and vocal music from what was then known as Northern State College in 1985.
- **Mark Lee, Madison, S.D., executive dean, South Dakota Public Universities and Research Center.** Lee oversees the development and operation of University Center at Sioux Falls, a partnership campus offering programs from five South Dakota public universities. Under Lee's seven years of leadership, University Center has significantly increased the number of programs and courses offered, with strong increases in both headcount enrollment and credit hours delivered. Lee led efforts to acquire land and establish facilities for the first time ever in Sioux Falls to support public higher education. In the past year, he also spearheaded efforts to secure \$500,000 in pledges for facilities and scholarship funding and more than \$313,000 in additional pledges to support need-based scholarships. Lee previously served as vice president for administration and university advancement at Dakota State University in Madison, with additional administrative experience at DSU and Truman (Missouri) State University. His doctorate in adult and higher education administration is from The University of South Dakota. He also holds the M.B.A. and a B.S. degree in business administration, both from USD.
- **James Michael Smith, Fremont, Ohio, vice president for economic development and regional growth, Bowling Green State University.** Smith is charged with developing relationships, both internally and externally, that benefit Bowling Green State University, the region, and the state with overall economic enhancement. Smith previously served as the dean of BGSU Firelands, the only regional campus of Bowling Green State University. He is a veteran organizational leader, with experience leading educational institutions at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels. Prior to joining the senior administrative team at Bowling Green, he was dean of the School of Education at Indiana University South Bend. He also served in administrative capacities at West Texas A&M University and Butler University. His Ph.D. in educational leadership is from Miami University of Ohio, where he also earned a B.S. degree in elementary education. His master of education degree is from Xavier (Ohio) University.

Copies of finalists' professional vitae are posted at <http://www.sdbor.edu/nsusearch/>. The Board of Regents will meet in executive session with the finalists during their campus visits. No action will be taken at these meetings.