



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of St. Thomas Vice President departs Houston
Dr. Colleen Hester Named 15th President of MacMurray College**

HOUSTON (May 14, 2007) — Dr. Colleen Hester, the vice president of Strategic Planning, Institutional Research and Evaluation at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, was unanimously elected the 15th president of MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois by the Board of Trustees.

Announcing this departure of a senior official, UST President Dr. Robert Ivany said, "It is with both sadness and pride that I inform our community that Dr. Colleen Hester, vice president of Strategic Planning, Institutional Research & Evaluation (SPIRE) and professor of psychology will be leaving UST at the end of this, her 23rd year of full-time service to the University of St. Thomas."

Ivany added, "We know that Colleen is eminently qualified to become a college president. She has demonstrated tremendous ability to build strong teams. She has provided our community with a wealth of strategic planning, analysis, research and evaluation unequaled in our history and available to very few institutions. She possesses the attributes, experience and caring attitude of a true professional educator and we will miss her greatly."

President-elect Hester will assume her duties at MacMurray before the fall term begins in September. She will be the first woman to lead the College in its 161-year history.

"I am inspired by MacMurray College's legacy of transforming students' lives by empowering them with strong critical thinking skills, effective communication skills, a rich understanding of the historic human experience and a working moral compass. MacMurray prepares leaders and citizens for life success."

"We are very pleased to have a scholar and administrator of Colleen Hester's ability join us at MacMurray," said Dr. Allen W. Croessmann, chair of the MacMurray Board of Trustees. "She is the right person at the right time to build on the strengths of the College and to lead MacMurray and its students to even greater achievements."

Dr. Hester was selected from more than 60 academic professionals from around the country who applied to succeed retiring President Lawrence D. Bryan. Dr. Hester was among four finalists that toured the MacMurray campus in April and met with faculty, staff and students.

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University of St. Thomas/Dr. Colleen Hester/222222

Dr. Hester has been vice president of Strategic Planning, Institutional Research and Evaluation at the University of St. Thomas since 1999. In that role, she has worked with academic and non-academic units on strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, outcomes assessment, institutional research, evaluation and accreditation. Dr. Hester has extensive service in academic affairs, student affairs and institutional advancement. She was director of the counseling, testing, and career services at the University between 1984 and 1987. Dr. Hester served as chair of the psychology department between 1987 and 1994, and held the Cullen-Mitchell Chair in psychology from 1997 to 1999. Dr. Hester was elected by the faculty as chair of the Faculty Senate in 1998. She also served as assistant to the president for institutional advancement.

Dr. Hester's academic leadership has included serving as chair of the University's Human Subjects Committee, providing leadership in advancing undergraduate research and student scholarship. She is the school's chief accreditation officer and was twice named the University of St. Thomas' Professor of the Year.

A licensed psychologist, Dr. Hester has had an active practice in psychological accreditation and licensing, with service to the American Psychiatric Association, the Texas State Board of Examiners and other organizations.

Dr. Hester has published widely and was a recipient of the 1989 Isabel Briggs Myers Memorial Research Award, awarded annually after an international competition for the best study in psychological type research.

She received a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Southeast Missouri State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Murray State University in Kentucky.

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