



## **WESTPHAL TO STEP DOWN AS CHANCELLOR**

### **Intends to Accept University System Professorship**

BANGOR – University of Maine System Chancellor Joseph W. Westphal today announced that he will be stepping down from his current position on June 30, 2006, and will return to teaching full-time.

“After many years of leading large and complex organizations, I want to use my energy in new ways to contribute to this university system and Maine,” Westphal explained. “I want to fulfill some personal goals that rely on the many incredible experiences I have been fortunate to have had in my career, and returning to a full-time faculty position will enable me to pursue those objectives.”

Westphal, a former senior official in the Clinton and Bush administrations, will focus on his academic and professional expertise in areas such as environmental and education policy, national security, and democratic institutions.

“Ever since I returned to teaching at Georgetown University and most recently at the University of Maine, I have had a tremendous urge to work with students and engage in writing and research with colleagues in Maine and around the world,” Westphal added. “I have many projects I want to pursue and I intend to continue working in support of our universities and our great state.”

Westphal, who has been chancellor since April 2002, also serves as a tenured political science professor at the University of Maine in Orono. Westphal will become a full-time faculty member and hold the title of University System Professor, beginning July 1, 2006. In that role, he will teach, conduct research, engage in public service outreach, and advise students. His System professorship covers four years, including a sabbatical year.

“Joe has been a strong and visionary leader as chancellor,” stated Charles L. Johnson III of Hallowell, chair of the University System Board of Trustees. “He arrived at a time when the System was under great stress because of declining state and federal funds for higher education. The Board asked him to play the role of change agent, and he has done so very ably. The State owes the chancellor a debt of gratitude for all that he has taken on.”

Johnson and others cited some of the major efforts undertaken by the University of Maine System under Westphal's tenure:

- Developed a broad and comprehensive strategic plan addressing quality and fiscal constraints
- Promoted and achieved greater partnerships with Maine's community colleges
- Served as a strong advocate for greater funding for universities
- Undertook major assessments of university policy with respect to financial aid and distance education
- Led efforts to redesign university operations to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century student needs and expectations
- Proposed and oversaw the relocation of the System's statewide operations center to downtown Bangor in a swap of properties with the City of Bangor

- Engaged the University System in building international research and education linkages, notably through formal agreements with universities in France, Ireland and Chile
- Launched the first major System-level campaign to market universities to both in-state and out-of-state students
- Implemented a statewide university advocacy initiative
- Authorized the complete overhaul of the System's presence on the Internet to focus on students and their need to have a clear, friendly, and easily traversed site from which to view Maine's public universities
- Initiated the Regional Teacher Development Centers, designed to help Maine's K-12 schools, teachers, and administrators
- Aggressively promoted university-based research and development and helped increase federal funding for Maine-based research projects

Reflecting upon his tenure as Chancellor, Westphal commented on the challenges of implementing long-term strategies for a large, highly de-centralized institution.

"When you lead a large organization which has been decentralized and you focus energy and direction from the center, you invoke fear of change and support for the status quo," he explained. "Though we encountered some of that during our strategic planning initiative, I am very proud that, through dialogue and study, our faculty, staff, and students worked together to shape a new and exciting direction for our universities."

"The Board and I certainly put the proverbial 'elephant in the room' by proposing a restructuring of the System," Westphal added. "But through that process, ultimately we put to rest the debate about reorganizing the System. We are committed to seven universities and it is incumbent on the State to support Maine's students by providing resources necessary to give them the best education possible."

"Joe Westphal has been an outspoken advocate for positive change both within the University of Maine System and for all of higher education," stated Margaret Weston of Yarmouth, vice chair of the Board of Trustees. "He worked hard over the past four years to put strategies in place to make the University System even more efficient and to expand the quality of baccalaureate and graduate education. He has helped to align our universities' research and public service activities with Maine's economic goals."

According to Weston, the Board intends to act quickly to find Westphal's successor.

"The next step for the Board is to meet and determine who will be interim chancellor [following Westphal's departure at the end of June]. Once we have made that decision, we will initiate a national search to find the right person for the chancellor's position."

Other trustees also commented positively on Westphal's leadership as chancellor.

"I've been on the Board of Trustees for ten years, and I think Joe Westphal has done a great job as Chancellor, as is evidenced by his many accomplishments," stated James D. Mullen of Bangor. "In the face of flat and/or curtailed funding from the State, and rapidly rising operating expenses – especially healthcare costs – he has done a masterful job of balancing the checkbook, while keeping tuition increases to a minimum."

"I believe that the Chancellor leaves the System in better condition than he found it," added Gregory G. Cyr, a trustee from Portage. "He has done an excellent job for the University System and for the state. I'm sad to see him leave that position, but I understand and respect his decision to return to teaching and research."

"I am very grateful to the Board for allowing me to make this move at this time," Westphal responded. "As we begin implementation of the Strategic Plan and head towards the next biennium, this is a good

time for an easy transition. The timing will give the System's new leader an opportunity to put his or her imprint on these efforts.”

Westphal holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He taught for 12 years at Oklahoma State University, serving as chair of the political science department for several years. He also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

From 1988 to 1995, Westphal worked in the United States Congress in various capacities. Westphal then moved to the Executive branch of government as Senior Policy Advisor for Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1998, Westphal took on a new challenge when he was confirmed by the United States Senate as Assistant Secretary of the Army. In that role, Westphal was the head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, one of the largest agencies in the federal government with 35,000 employees and an annual operating budget of more than \$20 billion. He concluded his Army career in 2001 as Acting Secretary of the Army, where he had responsibility for all matters relating to the Army, including an annual budget of more than \$76 billion and a workforce of just over one million active duty, guard and reserve soldiers and 270,000 civilian employees.

Westphal has received numerous awards during his academic and public career, including the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the highest award given by the Department of the Army. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the honorary academic society. He and his wife, Linda, live in Bangor. They have four adult children.