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A NATIONAL DIALOGUE:

The **Secretary** of **Education's Commission** on the **Future** of **Higher Education**

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Peter McPherson

President

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

Peter McPherson, President Emeritus of Michigan State University, is the new President of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges as of January 1, 2006.

In addition to leading Michigan State for 11 years, McPherson, a former top Treasury Department official and head of the Agency for International Development, also has been active in efforts to end hunger in Africa and to expand international study abroad. During a five-month leave of absence from the university in 2003, he worked in Iraq as Director of Economic Policy for the Coalition Provisional Authority of Iraq.

McPherson succeeded Dr. C. Peter Magrath, who left the presidency of NASULGC at the end of 2005 to become a Senior Adviser to the College Board and do consulting work. Magrath led the organization from January 1, 1992, to December 31, 2005.

From, Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland and chair of the search committee for the new president, said: "We are extremely fortunate to have Peter McPherson as NASULGC's new president. He has an extraordinary breadth of experience that will serve him, the association, and its members extremely well. In all his positions, Peter has demonstrated the capacity to build coalitions to get important things done. He is definitely an 'out-of-the-box' thinker, a quality we clearly need in higher education leadership today."

Said McPherson: "I am very pleased that I have been asked to serve as the next President of NASULGC. I believe the role of public higher education is to provide access and opportunity for an excellent education. This has been important to the nation's success in the past and is now more important than ever. Opportunity for excellence is key to the proper functioning of a democratic society."

McPherson served as president of Michigan State from October 1993 through December 2004. During his tenure, MSU developed one of the largest study-abroad programs in the nation and significantly raised its academic and research reputation. In addition, \$926 million was raised for the university's \$1.2 billion capital campaign, which closes at the end of 2007. He also developed the idea and was a leader of the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor (now the Technology Tri-Corridor), which uses money from the national tobacco settlement for competitive grants for life sciences research and commercialization.

McPherson chaired the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Commission, which was established by Congress to determine how to dramatically expand study abroad. He also is chair of the Board of International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) and is founder and co-chair of the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa.