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CONTACT: Barry Toiv
202-408-7500, barry_toiv@aau.edu

AAU STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF JIM LEACH AS CHAIR OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on President Obama’s appointment of former Rep. Jim Leach as Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On behalf of AAU’s 60 leading U.S. research universities, I want to express strong support for President Obama’s choice of former Representative Jim Leach to head the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Jim Leach has demonstrated in word and deed that he appreciates the importance of federal support for the humanities and the role that the humanities play in Americans’ understanding of our history and our culture in a constantly changing global context.

AAU members and hundreds of other colleges and universities work with NEH every day to advance these goals. The humanities are a fundamental element of the research, the learning, and the creative new work that take place on all of our campuses, and NEH programs and grants enrich these efforts. I am confident that with Jim Leach at its helm, NEH will deepen its support for the humanities on university campuses, and its enrichment of American life.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.