



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2009

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

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

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

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, I commend the Senate's confirmation of former Representative Jim Leach to head the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NEH programs and grants enrich efforts to advance the research, learning, and creativity in the humanities that take place at AAU universities and hundreds of other institutions throughout the nation.

Jim Leach understands the role of the humanities at our universities and in American life. He appreciates the need for strong federal support of the humanities and the role of the humanities in helping Americans understand our history and our culture. It would be hard to imagine a director better able to deepen the nation's appreciation of and support for the humanities.

#####

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.