Dunlap, Carmen Z.

From: VP Academic Affairs,
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 12:22 PM
To: DL-Campus Employees
Subject: Appointment of Dean, College of Education

To: Campus Community

From: Ephraim P. Smith
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Appointment of Dean, College of Education: Dr. Claire C. Cavallaro

Date: April 12, 2006

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Claire C. Cavallaro as Dean of the College of Education, effective July 1, 2006.

Dr. Cavallaro, who has served as Chief of Staff and principal advisor to the President of California State University, Northridge, since 2003, earned her Ph.D. in Special Education at George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University. Prior to her work in the President’s Office, Dr. Cavallaro was Chair of the Department of Special Education at CSUN for five years, having held a faculty position in the Department since 1982 (Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor). She was an Assistant Professor of Special Education at State University of New York, Binghamton, earlier in her career.

As Chief of Staff for the President, Dr. Cavallaro is a member of the President’s Cabinet and works closely with senior staff on enrollment management, accountability, accreditation, the university budget, and fund raising. She coordinates the Cabinet’s ongoing strategic planning efforts, serves as the President’s liaison to internal and external constituents, and works closely with faculty governance leadership. In her previous roles in the Department of Special Education, Dr. Cavallaro initiated strategic planning and provided leadership in the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) reviews. She was involved in curriculum development, including the new Education Specialist credentials (Levels I and II) in four specialization areas, and wrote and directed numerous externally funded projects.

Dr. Cavallaro was founder and President of the Community Honoring Inclusive Model Education (CHIME) Institute for Children with Special Needs, a nonprofit organization that provides demonstration, training, and research sites for teacher preparation programs at CSUN. CHIME operates an early childhood program and two highly acclaimed charter schools where children with a wide range of disabilities are educated together with children who are typically developing or gifted and talented. Dr. Cavallaro obtained significant external funding for this community-based project. She notes that the values of inclusion and social equity have long been a driving force in her work. In 2004, the U.S Department of Education recognized CHIME as a national model for full inclusion of students with disabilities and for providing a blueprint for local schools across the country.

Dr. Cavallaro is the author of numerous publications on teacher education and inclusion, including *Preschool Inclusion* (1999), “Quality early field experiences for undergraduates” in *Teacher Education*

Please join me in extending congratulations and a warm welcome to Dr. Cavallaro on being selected as Dean. I take this opportunity to thank the search committee, chaired by Dr. Ruth Yopp-Edwards and Dr. Tom Klammer, for their efforts which have resulted in this outstanding appointment.