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Public Invited to UNH to Celebrate Inauguration of President Ann Weaver Hart Nov. 21 and 22

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire is planning a two-day inauguration Nov. 21 and 22 to celebrate the university and honor its 18th president, Ann Weaver Hart.

Delegates from all New England colleges and universities, Utah and California university systems, academic associations and learned societies, state representatives and the governor, the congressional delegation and business people from the state and region have been invited.

In addition, the public is invited to join the celebration.

Since mid-July, preparations have been under way for the inauguration, an academic tradition considered among the most important ceremonies at the university.

"President Hart wants to celebrate the university and share its success with its constituents just as much as the university wants to celebrate and welcome new leadership," said Susan Entz, director of the Office of Public Programs and Events, which is orchestrating the inauguration.

Specific programs are planned, including traditional and new practices. For example, greetings from the student body president and delegates, and the adorning of the academic medallion on Hart are traditional practices. New practices to complement the traditions include a piece of music specially written by alumnus Craig Levesque that will serve as an interlude during the installation, and a procession to the installation will

include the UNH community. On Thursday, Nov. 21, a student celebration will be held at the Memorial Union Building from 12 to 2:30 p.m. Student groups will present gifts to Hart that symbolize their organizations and serve as an example of the diversity within the student community.

The academic convocation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Strafford Room of the MUB. C. Peter Magrath, '55, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, will offer the keynote address, "UNH: A Research University in the 21st Century."

A panel of three faculty members will respond to his remarks. Panel members include Lawrence Hamilton, professor of sociology, Barbara Krysiak, associate professor of education, and P.T. Vasudevan, professor of chemical engineering.

On Friday, Nov. 22, the procession with the president begins at noon. The procession to the installation ceremony is among the most visually memorable parts of a presidential inauguration. The ROTC Color Guard and UNH Marching Band will lead the procession of robed faculty, delegates, academic leaders and others from the UNH community from the Thompson Hall Lawn to the Whittemore Center.

The installation ceremony begins at 1 p.m. at the Whittemore Center. Hart will be adorned with the university's academic medallion, which is made of silver, features the university seal and symbolizes the office of the president.

A reception will follow the inauguration.

For more information, contact the UNH Office of Public Programs and Events at 1-888-UNH-AnnHart , or visit the Web site <http://www.unh.edu/ppe/inauguration>.

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