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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Appalachian Council 2007 Kinship Award Honors Nancy L. Zimpher

On Monday, May 14th, the Urban Appalachian Council will honor U.C. President Nancy Zimpher at the 2007 Kinship Event. This year's dinner and ceremony will be held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Nick Clooney will serve as MC for the program.

Chad Wick, President and CEO of the Knowledge Works Foundation, who will be giving a special tribute at the Event, said recently, "I have seen Nancy Zimpher's vision and leadership first hand through her work in STRIVE, an initiative that aims to create A WORLD-CLASS education system, right here in this area, for all our children from birth through college."

President Zimpher, who was born and raised in Gallipolis in Gallia County, Ohio, in the heart of the Appalachian plateau region, is a true child of Appalachia. From her rural upbringing, she has grown to become a dedicated advocate of the urban agenda and an unceasing activist for quality teaching and urban education.

Commenting on the Kinship Selection, Maureen Sullivan, UAC's Executive Director, noted "President Zimpher was recognized for her Vision, Leadership, Spirit of Partnership, Energy, Passion, and Tenacity. Those who meet Nancy Zimpher recognize she possesses these qualities in abundance."

As the University of Cincinnati's 25th president and its first woman president, Zimpher was featured in the "I'm a Child of Appalachia" billboard campaign sponsored by the Appalachian Foundation of Ohio in 2006. Her name and visage are also featured as the "Z" entry and as a native of Appalachia in the Woven Traditions activity book published by Did You Know Publishing, Inc. for children pre-K through second grade.



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These nods to her roots are particularly appropriate, given President Zimpher's longstanding commitment to providing pathways for student success, not just at the higher education level, but also at the pre-K to 12 levels.

Dr. Zimpher, who began her career as a school teacher in Washington, D.C. and then in the Ozarks (another highland region), returned to her alma mater, Ohio State University, to earn her master's in English literature and a doctoral degree in teacher education and administration in higher education. While she has a long list of academic and leadership activities, much of her focus has been on improving the preparation of teachers, especially teachers for urban contexts. After serving as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee she returned to Ohio as UC's president and has provided leadership to forming university-community partnerships to enhance primary and secondary education and improve student success.

Upon her arrival at UC, President Zimpher launched a visioning process with town hall meetings involving 240 people and more than 90 input sessions involving 2,400 people as well as a Web site that garnered thousands of hits. The resulting vision, UC|21: Defining the New Urban Research University was unveiled at her inauguration in May 2004. In tandem with UC|21, as soon as she arrived on campus, she approached her colleagues in higher education in the region – Xavier University's Father Michael Graham and Northern Kentucky University's James Votruba – to open conversation with them about how the region's higher education institutions could work together to make a greater impact on the region. Their conversation grew to become STRIVE, an unprecedented regional partnership focused on student success from birth through entry into a career. STRIVE launched on August 16, 2006, after years of relationship-building, involves the area's higher education institutions, public school districts in Cincinnati, Covington (Ky.) and Newport (Ky.), the region's Catholic urban schools on both sides of the Ohio River, plus business, civic and nonprofit partners.

The Urban Appalachian Council was founded in 1974 to promote a decent quality of life for urban Appalachian people in the greater Cincinnati area. For 33 years UAC has provided advocacy and direct service support in Cincinnati neighborhoods with high concentrations of low-income Appalachian residents. The Urban Appalachian Council impacts thousands of lives every year through community education, employability readiness, cultural and youth programs.

For more information about the Kinship Event or to make reservations, please call Millie Smith at 513-251-0202.

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