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UT AUSTIN PRESIDENT TAKES HELM OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TIER ONE INSTITUTIONS

AUSTIN—UT Austin President Bill Powers today became Chair of the Association of American Universities, the prestigious consortium of public and private research institutions. The Coalition issued the following statement applauding his election and the beginning of his service:

“President Powers is an outstanding higher education leader for the state of Texas. His new role as AAU Chair reflects the rising prestige of public higher education throughout our state, and all Texans should be proud of this acknowledgement. That the presidents of this group of our nation’s leading research and teaching institutions chose this Texas leader highlights that our state is breaking new ground in public higher education.

“Powers’ innovative, forward-thinking, and reform-minded approach to higher education has helped propel UT Austin ever closer to its goal of being the number one public university in the United States. Under his exceptional leadership UT Austin has improved in virtually all global and national rankings, embarked on aggressive online and blended learning initiatives, improved efficiencies across the campus, recruited world-class faculty and students, and shattered fundraising records, to name but a few of the university’s accomplishments under his leadership.

“Higher education is transforming in many ways – from the way students access education, to how their performance is being measured to the diminished role of state spending in support of our institutions – and President Powers and UT Austin have been pioneers in identifying and implementing new and innovative ways to succeed in this challenging environment.”

About the AAU

The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

About the Coalition

The Texas Coalition for Excellence in Higher Education was launched in the summer of 2011 by a group of concerned citizens who believe strongly in the power of higher education to transform lives, build our economy and shape Texas’ future. Formed in response to a growing concern over recommendations being floated that could have long-term damaging effects on our institutions of higher learning, the Coalition hopes to advance a thoughtful, constructive and transparent dialogue around higher education in Texas, seeking to improve the quality educational opportunities for all Texans.

***For more information on the Coalition and information on higher education in Texas, please visit:
www.TexasEducationExcellence.org***

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