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USF names Karen White campus executive officer for USF St. Petersburg

Tampa, Fla. (April 14, 2003) – USF President Judy Genshaft today announced that Karen White will be the new campus executive officer and vice president for USF St. Petersburg.

Karen White comes to USF St. Petersburg from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she is the dean of the College of Fine Arts and professor of music. Her name was among the four forwarded to Genshaft by the search committee at USF St. Petersburg.

"The search committee did an outstanding job, and I agree that Karen White is a great fit for the campus," Genshaft said. "She brings tremendous breadth of experience, both with large and small institutions. She understands the value of metropolitan research university campuses that are engaged in the communities they serve."

White was presented to the USF St. Petersburg Campus Board at its regularly scheduled meeting today.

"I am honored and delighted to accept this position," White said. "The campus is an important part of a fine research university and offers distinctive undergraduate and graduate programs. One of the attractions of the post is the opportunity to work with a highly qualified and talented faculty and staff on a metropolitan research university campus. The USF St. Petersburg students whom I have met are serious and motivated learners and demonstrate pride in their campus."

White has extensive experience with issues affecting metropolitan universities. In 1988, she was selected for a higher education leadership program of the American Council on Education and spent the year at Wright State University. She stayed on at the institution as special assistant to the president for another year, during which time she coordinated a national coalition of university presidents defining and promoting the metropolitan university model and edited a scholarly journal on the same topic. From 1990-93, she served as executive assistant to the chancellor of the University of Maryland System and as a consultant to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges on urban and metropolitan university issues.

White has also been very active in the communities in which she has worked. At the University of Nebraska at Omaha, she has served on the boards of numerous arts organizations including the Omaha Symphony, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha Community Playhouse, and the City of Omaha Public Art Commission.

A violinist, she has performed over 200 solo and chamber music recitals and served as concertmaster of the Baton Rouge Symphony, the New Orleans Pops and Ballet Orchestras, and the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra. White earned the baccalaureate degree in music education from the University of Arkansas and a masters and doctor of musical arts from the University of Arizona. She previously served on the music faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University, where she was president of the Faculty Senate.

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