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DBU ANNOUNCES NAMING OF SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT DR. GARY COOK

DALLAS, Texas— In recognition of DBU President Dr. Gary Cook’s seventeen years of leadership and service, the DBU Board of Trustees recently voted to name a new academic division of the University the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and Christian Education. Throughout Dr. Cook’s seventeen-year tenure, DBU has experienced unprecedented growth in its finances, facilities, student body, and academics.

“We wanted to find a way to say thank you to Dr. Cook for the way he has served DBU and helped it to become the university that it is today,” explained Dr. Charles Ku, chair of the DBU Board of Trustees. “Therefore, the Board of Trustees has voted to name this school in honor of Dr. Cook.”

DBU created the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership and Christian Education in 2004 in order to house DBU’s newest graduate degree, the Master of Arts in Christian Education. Beginning with 27 students in the Spring of 2004, the program currently is home to over sixty-three students seeking preparation for Christian ministry in a variety of fields. DBU decided to move the already popular Master of Education in Higher Education program into this new School because of this degree’s emphasis on leadership studies. In addition, DBU recently announced the beginning of its very first doctoral program, the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies, which will be housed in the School as well.

“Dr. Cook has done so much for DBU, and through his vision and leadership the School of Leadership and Christian Education was created,” said Dr. Bernie Spooner, associate dean of the new graduate school. “This is just a small way to honor all of his hard work.”

Since Dr. Cook became president in 1988, the University has grown from 1,859 students to 4,714 in 2004. The University’s assets have grown from \$27.7 million to \$71.1 million, and the University has finished each fiscal year in the black for the last sixteen years. The campus has expanded from 196 acres to 293 acres. Average SAT scores for incoming DBU freshmen have been raised from 887 in 1992 to 1100 in 2004. In addition, 78% of the full-time faculty have doctorates or terminal degrees, compared to 52% in 1988. Another 12% of the full-time faculty are currently working on a terminal degree. Eight

master's degree programs have been added since 1988 while graduate enrollment has increased from 259 in the fall of 1988 to 1,173 in the fall of 2004.

Prior to his tenure at DBU, Dr. Cook served on the administrative staff of Baylor University in Waco for ten years. During that time, he taught at least one undergraduate or graduate class each semester. His responsibilities at Baylor included serving as Administrative Coordinator of the Gerontology Program, Assistant Chaplain, Director of Denominational and Community Relations, and Special Assistant to the President for Denominational Relations. Before serving at Baylor, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church of McGregor, Texas. He also has served ten interim pastorates.

Dr. Cook has served as a member of the International Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity, on the Executive Committee of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, as chair of the Finance Committee of the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities, on the board of directors of the Dallas YMCA, as a member of the board of trustees and executive committee of Baylor College of Dentistry, as a member of the Baylor Oral Health Foundation, and as chairman of the Education Division of the Dallas United Way Campaign. Dr. Cook also served as a member of the steering committee of the Billy Graham Metroplex Mission in 2002.

He has served as a member of the Waco City Council and as Mayor Pro Tem of Waco. He formerly served as founding president of the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews, founding president of the Samaritan Counseling Center, and founding president of the Waco Christian Society for the Arts. He also served as president of the Arthritis Foundation of Central Texas, the Waco Ministerial Alliance, and the Greater Waco Beautification Association. He is a Senior Active Member of Rotary International and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was appointed by George Gallup to serve as a Fellow of the Gallup International Institute.

With a heart for the elderly, Dr. Cook has devoted much of his time to programs aimed at helping senior citizens. In 1981, Congressman Marvin Leath asked Dr. Cook to serve as his delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. Later in 1987, Dr. Cook was appointed by Governor William Clements to serve a four-year term on the nine-member Texas Board on Aging. Dr. Cook was appointed by Governor George Bush to serve as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 1995. In 2004, Dr. Cook was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to serve as a founding member of the OneStar Foundation. Dr. Cook formerly held office as chairman of the Waco Council of Senior Citizens and the Waco Baptist Association Senior Adult Council and served as the coordinator of his church's Meals on Wheels program for five years.

Dr. Cook received the Waco Humanitarian Award presented by the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews in 1985. He also received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award given by the Baylor Alumni Association in 1987. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award

presented by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 2003, he was recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Baylor University. He is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in American Education.

Dr. Cook and his wife of thirty years, Sheila, have two sons, David, a college senior, and Mark, a high school senior. The Cooks are members of Park Cities Baptist Church of Dallas, where Dr. Cook serves as a deacon. He has also been involved with the Baptist World Alliance since he was a college student. He was a charter member of the BWA General Secretary's Circle, and currently he serves on the Promotion and Development Committee and the Church Leadership Commission of the BWA.