Killebrew Named Sole Finalist for Presidency of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

December 8, 2004
Contact: Terri H. Parker (979) 458-6023 t-parker@tamu.edu

(Corpus Christi, TX)—Dr. Flavius Killebrew, provost and vice president for academic affairs at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, was named sole finalist for the position of president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi today in a unanimous vote by the nine-member Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System.

He succeeds Dr. Robert R. Furgason, who is stepping down after 14 years to become director of the university’s new Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

Killebrew, a native of the West Texas town of Canadian, first joined the WTAMU community as an undergraduate in 1967. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from WTAMU in 1971 and 1972, respectively, and received a doctorate in zoology from the University of Arkansas in 1976, the same year he was appointed to the WTAMU biology faculty.

In 1988, Killebrew reached the rank of tenured professor and also was named director of the Graduate School, a title that changed to dean of the Graduate School and Research in 1991. He was appointed interim provost and vice president for academic affairs by WTAMU President Russell C. Long in 1994, and was named to the permanent position the following year.

In this position, Killebrew was responsible for the administration of all academic and research programs, including the colleges, the library, continuing education, enrollment management, planning and analysis, and grants and special projects. Killebrew oversaw the development of WTAMU’s new engineering program, the university’s online distance education program—which is the state’s largest—and the introduction of intersession courses for students. He also helped the university obtain $1.7 million in research funding for two consecutive years.

Killebrew is a recognized expert on Cagle’s Map Turtle (Graptemys caglei), which, based largely on his efforts, has been recommended for listing as a threatened species.

He is married to the former Kathy Bartley and has one daughter, Arian.

“I look forward to working with Flavius Killebrew as the new president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi,” said Dr. Bob McTeer, chancellor of the A&M System. “Dr. Killebrew’s experience as provost and vice president for academic affairs at West Texas A&M University will enable him to hit the ground running in Corpus Christi.”

The A&M System Board of Regents may vote to officially name Killebrew to the post no sooner than Dec. 29, after the required 21 days of public notice.
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (“The Island University”) is a comprehensive four-year university with more than 8,000 students and a 1 to 16 average teacher-to-student ratio. A&M-Corpus Christi’s proximity to water has enabled the university to become a hub of the latest coastal, marine and environmental research. The university has five colleges in the areas of arts and humanities, business, education, nursing, and science and technology.