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David H. Murdock Research Institute Announces New President

(NC Research Campus, Kannapolis, NC- September 13, 2011)- The David H. Murdock Research Institute (DHMRI) announced today that James L. Oblinger, NC State University (NCSU) professor in the Department of Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences, is the new president.

Oblinger, a former NCSU chancellor, provost, and dean, has served for the past two years as a faculty member of the NCSU Plants for Human Health Institute (PHHI) at the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) in Kannapolis. Oblinger's career is hallmarked by success developing organizations and programs that advance scientific discovery as well as public-private partnerships that create jobs and boost the state's life science industry. Oblinger brings a background in food science and agriculture and 25 years of experience in administration and management to the DHMRI. He is the author of over 50 published research articles.

"Jim Oblinger is exactly the type of president that DHMRI needs," stated Steven Leath, PhD, vice president for research of the University of North Carolina system. Leath serves on the DHMRI board of directors and has overseen daily operations during the search for a new president.

"Jim is experienced, thoughtful, and visionary. He has extensive experience managing and leading complex organizations. He understands science and how to build partnerships in the science world," Leath continued. "Just as important, he knows how to build bridges between DHMRI and the community, universities, and other scientific organizations. I am certain he is the right person to lead DHMRI to great things."

DHMRI Announces New President, page 2

As president, Oblinger will focus on furthering public and private partnerships that will continue to advance DHMRI and NCRC.

“I am excited about becoming the president of the David H. Murdock Research Institute and working with all of the constituencies, on-campus and off-campus,” Oblinger said. “The unique public and private partnerships that exist here and those yet to come are only strengthened by the role that the DHMRI plays. As scientists push the frontiers of their disciplines, we will be there with scientific expertise and analytical capabilities that are, in some cases, uniquely available only through DHMRI. The work done here is good for people, good for the state, and good for global health.”

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Attached: Dr. Oblinger’s career highlights and headshot.

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