



State University of New York  
**Upstate Medical University**

*Feb. 10*

*The following statement regarding the selection of Nancy Zimpher as chancellor of the State University of New York was issued today by SUNY Upstate Medical University President David R. Smith, M.D.:*

“Dr. Nancy L. Zimpher is an articulate and visionary leader with an immense passion for public higher education. She is an adroit and inspiring leader who understands the challenges and opportunities that face public higher education, especially today. Working with her in a variety of settings it is clear that her leadership effectiveness has been realized at the local, state, national and international levels.

“Her appreciation of civic engagement and how building partnerships with business and industry, civic and nonprofit institutions, school districts and other higher education institutions can benefit communities will be essential in her new leadership role for New York public higher education.

“Nancy grasps the complexity of public higher education from the vital role it plays for assuring access to embracing excellence. Her collaborative style has integrated the missions of community colleges with four year institution on a practical level. Her understanding of the complexity of research and academic medicine will be beneficial to the broad responsibilities found under the SUNY umbrella.”

“Most importantly Dr. Zimpher understands people, she celebrates their intrinsic value to effect change and to realize a vision and she embraces the diversity that makes any State system of higher education great.

“The Upstate Medical University family looks forward to working with her to move SUNY forward and achieve even greater excellence.”

*Note: Smith and Zimpher served together on the board of directors of National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). Smith, at the time, was chancellor of Texas Tech University. Smith earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati.*