NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATCHITOCHES – Northwestern State University’s College of Education and Human Development will induct five alumni into its Hall of Distinguished Educators during this year’s Homecoming celebration Oct. 27. Honorees must have graduated from Northwestern State’s College of Education at least 30 years prior to nomination. This year’s Distinguished Educators are Dr. Cile Chavez of Littleton, Colo.; Dr. James Haley of Bossier City, Dr. Sandra McCalla of Shreveport, Dr. Cathy Seymour of Natchitoches, Susan Taylor of Coushatta.

Chavez earned a degree in social science and mathematics at Northwestern State in 1963, a master’s degree in educational administration at the University of New Orleans in 1967 and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Northern Colorado in 1980. She began her career as a teacher in Orleans Parish. Prior to beginning her own consulting business, she was a teacher and administrator at the middle, high school and university level. During her career, she served as superintendent of Littleton Public Schools, director of the North Central Accreditation for Colorado and assistant dean of the University of Colorado’s College of Education, among other education enterprises.

Chavez has lived in Colorado for more than 40 years. She has served in leadership positions in numerous community organizations and earned the Phi Delta Kappa Leadership Award twice. She was named one of the top 100 educators in the United States and was a finalist for the Colorado Superintendent of the Year. She also authored a book, “Spirit Moves: Attributes for Transforming Leadership.” Chavez has three children and two grandchildren.

Haley earned a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education and social studies at Northwestern State in 1959, a master’s in education 1964 and doctor of education degree in 1976. After working as a teacher and coach for several years, he moved into administration as a principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent in Beauregard Parish before joining Northwestern State University’s administration as vice president for University Affairs.

Haley has been affiliated with numerous professional associations, serving as president of the Southwest Superintendents Association and the Louisiana Superintendents Association, the executive committee for the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and the Governor’s Advisory Council for Drug Free Schools and Communities. Haley said hearing from former students and how he made a positive impact on them is one of the most rewarding aspects of his long career. Retired since 1995, he currently does consulting and inspection work. He has been
married to Marilyn J. Haley for 32 years and has four children and seven grandchildren.

McCalla earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Northwestern State in 1960. She earned a master’s in instruction and curriculum and mathematics with computer science in 1968 and Ed.D. in education leadership at Texas A & M University in 1987. She was a teacher and principal in Caddo Parish for 28 years before joining the faculty at Northwestern State as a professor and director of the Division of Education. She returned to Caddo Parish as principal and has served as principal at Captain Shreve High School since 1994. She also works as an adjunct instructor for Louisiana State University-Shreveport.

McCalla said accepting the Blue Ribbon School award on behalf of Captain Shreve High School from the President of the United States at the White House was among her most memorable experiences in education. McCalla has earned several honors during her career, including Caddo Parish Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year, Louisiana High School Principal of the Year, Louisiana Principal of the Year, Louisiana Student Councils, and the National PTA Life Service Award. McCalla has been selected to numerous leadership activities, authored several publications on student leadership and made numerous presentations on education leadership.

Seymour earned a bachelor’s degree in social studies and journalism education at Northwestern State in 1974, a master’s degree in secondary reading in 1976 and a doctoral degree in elementary education and administration in 1981. She began her career in classrooms in Natchitoches Parish before moving to Centenary College to direct the English Language Center and later serve as an assistant principal in Caddo Parish. She joined the faculty at Northwestern State’s College of Education in 1999 and director of clinical experience and associate dean until her retirement in 2007. She is currently an education consultant for Pearson Publishing and JBHM Education Group.

Seymour is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Pi and numerous other professional organizations related to education, accreditation and professional development. Seymour said many of her most memorable teaching experiences occurred while working with students in alternative school environments and watching pre-service teachers evolve from students to competent educators. She has been married for 42 years to Dr. Dan Seymour. The couple has two children and are expecting their first grandchild.

Taylor earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 1974, M.Ed. in reading in 1978 and +30 in 1980. She began her career in the elementary classroom before moving into administration in Red River and Natchitoches parishes, serving as principal of Coushatta Elementary, the NSU Elementary Lab School and Riverdale Academy. She is currently school improvement specialist/principal mentor for JBHM Education Group. Taylor cited her years of working with and mentoring new teachers and designing and implementing successful practices as among the most rewarding of her career.

Taylor has been recognized as Woman of the Year, Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year for Red River Parish and was Student Teacher of the Year at Northwestern State. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma honor society for women educators. Taylor has been married to Joe F. Taylor for 47 years and the couple has two daughters and four grandchildren. Both their daughters earned degrees in education at Northwestern State.

The Hall of Distinguished Educators induction ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday Oct. 27 in the commons area of the Teacher Education Center as part of the College of Education
and Human Development reunion. A social hour will begin at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Janet Broadway at (318) 357-6278 or broadwayj@nsula.edu.