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BOB BURGESS TO CHAIR MAJOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professor Bob Burgess, vice chancellor of the University of Leicester, is the new chairman of the Teaching and Learning Research Programme's steering committee. The Teaching and Learning Research Programme is the biggest initiative ever in UK educational research.

He will chair the committee for four years from October 2003 and succeeds Sir David Watson, vice chancellor of the University of Brighton.

Professor Burgess is both a university manager and a distinguished sociologist and educational researcher. He is the author of books and reports on topics including comprehensive schools, postgraduate education and education and training.

He says: "The Teaching and Learning Research Programme is now at an exciting point in its development. It is producing findings which it is vital to disseminate to a wide audience. At the same time, we must continue to use TLRP to build the UK's capacity for educational research."

He adds: "The Programme is not just conducting research about schools, colleges and universities. It is looking at workplace education and I hope it will be possible to involve new stakeholders in business and commerce as users of our work. We are also producing findings of direct relevance to politicians and policy makers and we need to make sure that they make use of our work."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

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1. The Teaching and Learning Research Programme is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Department for Education and Skills, the Scottish Executive, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Executive. It is managed by the Economic and Social Research Council. Its director is Professor Andrew Pollard, based at the faculty of education, University of Cambridge. Full details are at www.tlrp.org. It runs from 2000 to 2008 and funding to date is £26 million.
2. The ESRC is the UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It provides independent, high-quality, relevant research to business, the public sector and Government. The ESRC invests more than £76 million every year in social science and at any time is supporting some 2,000 researchers in academic institutions and research policy institutes. It also funds postgraduate training within the social sciences to nurture the researchers of tomorrow. More at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk>
3. REGARD is the ESRC's database of research. It provides a key source of information on ESRC social science research awards and all associated publications and products. The website can be found at <http://www.regard.ac.uk>.