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Date: 11-5-2009

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Jordan named chair of Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Nov. 5, 2009)–Dr. Deb Jordan has been appointed professor and
chair of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies by Glen G. Gilbert, dean of
the College of Health and Human Performance at East Carolina University.

Jordan comes to ECU from Oklahoma State University, where she served as the graduate
coordinator for the leisure studies program and taught in the undergraduate, graduate, and
doctoral programs.

Throughout her career, Jordan has received funding for research grants and has been
recognized for her achievements, including being one of eight people chosen by the
National Recreation and Park Association in March 2009 to participate in a summit to
develop online education programs for parks, recreation, and leisure services
professionals. In 2007, she was elected as a fellow to the Academy of Leisure Studies, a
100-member honorary academy for parks, recreation, and leisure services scholars.

She has authored or co-authored six textbooks and chapters as well as numerous articles
in scholarly publications and has been an invited guest speaker for many organizations
and universities across the country.

Jordan earned an undergraduate degree in parks and recreation with an emphasis in
recreation resource management in 1980 from Slippery Rock State College. In 1983, she
received a graduate degree from Western Illinois University and in 1988 she earned a
doctorate from Indiana University, both in parks and recreation administration.

“RCLS has an incredibly strong faculty and a tradition of being student-oriented. I am
delighted to be a part of such a group of dedicated professionals,” said Jordan. “I look
forward to working with faculty and staff to increase the level of excellence we have in
scholarship, teaching, and service.

“We have a lot to contribute to the region and the state in leadership development, quality
of life, and sustainability of the natural environment. We will be seeking ways to
capitalize on the opportunities to evolve our program and the state of North Carolina,”
she said.

Her research interests include leadership, culture and diversity, and the social psychology
of leisure behavior in natural settings.

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