



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Rick Jensen

Davenport University

616-732-1172

[rick.jensen@davenport.edu](mailto:rick.jensen@davenport.edu)

### **DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS AND PROVOST**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Oct. XX, 2010** – Davenport University has completed an extensive national search and has named Linda Renker, Ed.D., to the position of executive vice president for academics and provost.

The executive vice president for academics and provost will work in close partnership with Davenport's president, Dr. Rick Pappas, to lead the faculty and staff to advance the dynamic institution's important mission: to "prepare individuals and organizations to excel in the knowledge-driven environment of the 21st century."

"The decision was made to hire Dr. Renker based on her extensive experience leading administration of academics, strategic planning, and the enrollment management process," said Davenport President Dr. Rick Pappas. "Dr. Renker brings a tremendous amount of talent and experience to Davenport University and will play a pivotal role in achieving the University's ambitious goals."

Dr. Renker has been Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Western Connecticut State University since 2006, and will start in her new position at Davenport in February of 2011.

The search process included a series of interviews of leading candidates conducted by faculty and staff followed by in-depth interviews of finalists. Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Tracy Graham also was involved in the interview process.

Prior to her role at Western Connecticut University, Dr. Renker was Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Her long tenure at Kutztown also included service as Interim President, Assistant Provost and Chairperson of the Department of Nursing. An active presenter on a variety of academic and administrative topics, Dr. Renker has served as a consultant for accreditation and health care and has been very active in the communities in which she has lived.

Dr. Renker's doctorate in Administration/Education was obtained at Columbia University Teachers College in New York. Her M.S.N. in Nursing Administration is from Villanova University, and her M.A. in Counseling Psychology is from Kutztown University. She obtained her B.S.E.D. in Psychology/Education from West Chester State College.

**About Davenport University**

Davenport University – the only West Michigan-based private university specializing in business, technology and health professions – serves an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students at its W. A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids, at campuses throughout Michigan and online. Davenport focuses on innovative, practical and affordable education and offers graduate and undergraduate programs. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).

###