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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PUBLIC RADIO VETERAN HIRED TO LEAD NHPR Betsy Gardella to succeed Mark Handley on September 1st

CONCORD – Elizabeth (Betsy) Gardella, a public radio veteran with more than 20 years experience leading non-profit organizations in New York and Minnesota, has been selected as New Hampshire Public Radio's next President and General Manager.

Gardella will succeed Mark D. Handley, who has announced his intention to retire after 15 years as President of NHPR. Gardella will begin work on September 1st.

"The entire NHPR family is excited about Betsy joining us," says Sylvia McBeth, the chair of NHPR's Board of Trustees. "The Board sees in Betsy the same values -- integrity, transparency, trust and respect -- that have made working with Mark such a privilege. We're confident that Betsy will build upon Mark's legacy, helping to sustain NHPR's role as the source for reliable, comprehensive and balanced news reporting for a growing number of New Hampshire residents. We are grateful for all that Mark has done to help bring the station to this high point and we will miss him."

Gardella joins NHPR at a time NHPR is investing in new technologies and programming initiatives to better serves its listeners.

"To be selected to serve as the next president of New Hampshire Public Radio, to take on the leadership of this highly regarded public radio enterprise, is an honor and privilege." Gardella says. "The talent and commitment of the board and staff is impressive. I don't think there exists a finer, more exciting opportunity in all of public radio."

Gardella has more than 20 years experience managing non-profit arts and media organizations. She served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of public radio station WNYC Radio in New York City where she helped lead the station through its historic transition from municipal to community licensee, completed a \$20-million license purchase campaign, and shaped the effort to rebuild the station after its

transmitting equipment was destroyed on September 11, 2001. She currently serves as Project Director for American Public Media in Saint Paul, MN, directing the 2005 Public Radio Collaboration, Think Global (thinkglobal2005.org), a national editorial project that distributed documentaries, specials, commentaries, features and national programs to public radio stations and other media partners in May 2005.

She is also the fund raising counsel to Public Radio Exchange, a project of the Station Resource Group, and has been a consultant to public radio stations WAMU in Washington, D.C., and Minnesota Public Radio.

“The search process confirmed what we already knew, namely, that NHPR is a highly respected public broadcasting station nationally,” says University System of New Hampshire Chancellor Stephen Reno, who headed the search committee that selected Gardella. “To have attracted such a large and talented pool of applicants and to have appointed such a fine new President and General Manager, is a credit to NHPR and a promise for its exciting future.”

Prior to her work in public radio, Gardella worked for a variety of non-profits in New York City and Minnesota, including the New York Shakespeare Festival, National Dance Institute, the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, and the Minnesota Opera.

Gardella earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Maryland. She has also attended the Institute for Nonprofit Management at Columbia University’s School of Business Administration.

NHPR serves more than 150,000 listeners each week through a network of nine stations and transmitters. NHPR is the only statewide source of radio news, information, and entertainment for the Granite State, striving to earn the respect of its listeners by offering in-depth and unbiased reporting of the issues facing New Hampshire residents. NHPR views the importance of providing a comprehensive information source for New Hampshire as one of the station’s highest priorities. Contributions from listeners and businesses in New Hampshire make up more than 90 percent of the revenue necessary to operate NHPR.

NHPR broadcasts in Concord and Manchester at 89.1 FM; in Nashua at 90.3 FM; in Dover at 104.3 FM; in Hanover and Littleton at 91.3 FM; in Keene at 90.7 FM; in Berlin at 107.1 FM; in Jackson at 99.5 FM; in Portsmouth at 103.9 FM; and on the internet at nhpr.org.