

HARDMEYER NAMED BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA PRESIDENT

BISMARCK – The Industrial Commission today named Eric Hardmeyer as president of the Bank of North Dakota.

Hardmeyer, 42, has been serving as the bank's interim president since June 2000. He began his career with the bank in 1985, and recently served as senior vice president for lending for four years. A native of Mott, he is a graduate of the University of North Dakota and later earned a master's degree from the University of Mary.

"Eric's understanding of the mission of the bank will allow him to continue the bank's strong record in serving the people of North Dakota," said Gov. John Hoeven. "During the time I worked with Eric I found him committed to making the bank a key player in North Dakota's economic development efforts."

"With his rural North Dakota background, Eric is keenly aware of the needs of farmers and ranchers," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "He understands the role the bank needs to play in assisting and expanding North Dakota's agriculture sector."

"Since being elected Attorney General and serving on the Industrial Commission, I have been impressed with Eric's expertise and knowledge of the banking industry as well as the many facets of the Bank of North Dakota," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "From making farm loans to developing investment strategies for a \$1.9 billion bank, Eric's experience is invaluable as he takes on this leadership responsibility."

Hardmeyer's salary will be \$120,000.

The only state-owned bank in the nation, the Bank of North Dakota is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

