FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2002

NU Information Technology Announces Privacy Enhancements to Ph Directory

Northwestern University Information Technology is modifying the University's online Ph directory to help assure that the information it contains remains private from the world at large, while at the same time making individuals "findable" by friends and colleagues from other institutions and organizations on the Internet.

This enhancement, being made at the request of Student Affairs and Human Resources, will give members of the NU community some control over how much of their personal information is displayed in response to Ph directory searches originating off campus or from unknown sources within the University. These changes will take place as of May 22. Details are available at www.tss.northwestern.edu/reference/ph/.

What does this mean?
Currently, the "off_campus" field in a Ph entry is a text field, which when it contains the word "no," causes the Ph record to be invisible to searches from outside northwestern.edu, the University domain. If the "off-campus" field is blank, or contains any other text, the entire Ph record can be viewed from anywhere on the Internet.

Once the Ph enhancement is in place, the "off-campus" field will have three possible values: "full," "partial," and "no." You can change this field information in your Ph record at https://snap.it.northwestern.edu/it/edit-ph/edit.cgi.

On May 13, all Ph records will be updated to set the "off-campus" field to the default setting for that group. Records with "off-campus" set to "no" will be left unchanged. The following defaults will be set:

- "partial" - Northwestern students and staff; Garrett-Evangelical faculty, staff, and students
- "full" - Northwestern faculty; Seabury-Western faculty, staff, and students

Members of the NU community will have until May 22 to set their "off-campus" preference in Ph. If no preference is set during that time, the default setting takes effect. However, you can change the "off-campus" setting and edit other Ph fields in your record at any time, at https://snap.it.northwestern.edu/it/edit-ph/edit.cgi.

Detailed information about Ph is available at snap.it.northwestern.edu/it/snap/ph-user-doc.html.

Questions about the Ph privacy enhancements can be directed to it-feedback@northwestern.edu. Technical questions about Ph should be directed to consultant@northwestern.edu.