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Contact: Lisa A. Fellers
Director of Communications
Office: (817) 531-4498
Mobile: (817) 874-8683
lfellers@txwes.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Freese and Nichols chairman honored as Fort Worth's
Business Executive of the Year**

FORT WORTH, Aug 25 – Robert L. “Bob” Herchert, chairman of Freese and Nichols Inc., will be honored as Fort Worth’s Business Executive of the Year at the 35th annual Business Hall of Fame dinner on Thursday, September 23 at The Fort Worth Club, located at 306 W. 7th St.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Bob Bolen, senior advisor to the chancellor at TCU and former mayor of Fort Worth. Terry Ryan, senior advisor to the executive management of TexasBank and former president and CEO of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, will give the “Remarks of a Friend,” and Rice Tilley Jr., senior member with Law, Snakard & Gambill, will emcee the festivities. Sponsors for the 2004 Business Hall of Fame are the Fort Worth Business Press, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and Texas Wesleyan University.

The pre-dinner reception will be at 6 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m. in the Horizon Room. Dress is black tie optional. Individual tickets are available for \$250, and tables of ten are available for \$2,500. To purchase tickets, contact Texas Wesleyan’s Office of the President at (817) 531-4401. All proceeds benefit the Thomas H. Law scholarship program

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at Wesleyan. The Business Hall of Fame was founded in 1970 to honor the Business Executive of the Year, an individual who has made a profound impact on the business world. This year's recipient, Bob Herchert, serves as the chairman of Freese and Nichols Inc., a consulting firm for engineering, architecture and environmental science, based in Fort Worth. Prior to his chairmanship, Herchert held the position of president and CEO of the company, which under his leadership has experienced considerable growth. It is currently recognized by *CE News* as one of the top two firms to work for in the country. From 1978 to 1985, Herchert served as the city manager for Fort Worth. Professionally, he has held the following positions: executive vice president of Texas American Bancshares Inc.; deputy city manager in Kansas City, Missouri; city manager in Camden, Arkansas; assistant city manager in Fairborn, Ohio; and he served as an officer in the United States Army.

Deeply dedicated to the community, Herchert has been actively involved in civic, non-profit and professional activities, as well as membership on several boards, such as the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Harris Methodist Health Foundation, International City/County Management Association, North Central Texas Council of Governments and Summit Bank.

The dinner honoring Herchert will also recognize the recipient of the Thomas H. Law Scholarship, who will be chosen at the beginning of the 2004-05 school year. Established in 1998, the scholarship was named in honor of Thomas H. Law, the 1987 recipient of the Business Executive of the Year. Scholarship recipients are chosen annually by Wesleyan's business faculty.

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