Dear Members of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Community:

I am writing to let you know that Bill Goldstein has informed the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) Board of Governors that he plans to retire as Laboratory Director and LLC President as soon as his successor is identified and able to start. The LLNS Board respects and accepts Bill’s decision to retire and appreciates his contributions to LLNL and the nation.

Bill has served as the 12th Laboratory director and third LLC president since March 2014. During his tenure, the Laboratory has experienced significant growth in every facet of its program and operations, while delivering sustained impact to U.S. national security. Bill has positioned the Laboratory to lead the transition to a new phase of stockpile stewardship through its responsibility for two critical warhead modernization programs. To meet this challenge he has overseen the fielding of a new class of supercomputer, Sierra; prepared the way for exascale computing in the weapons program; shepherded new manufacturing techniques into the NNSA production complex; and established the NIF laser as a critical testbed for validating novel approaches to stockpile life extension, while making steady progress toward ignition. Under his leadership, the Lab achieved many technological breakthroughs, including the High-Repetition-Rate Advanced Petawatt Laser (HAPLS), the world’s highest average power diode-pumped laser system, and delivering the world’s largest high-precision optical lens to the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) project.

As director, Bill has overseen renewed capital investment on the site, with imminent completion of the Lab’s first line-item construction project since 2004, and completed a multiyear reengineering of the work planning and control system. Over the past six years, the Lab budget has grown by 50 percent, and its workforce by 25 percent. LLNL is recognized as an employer of choice, with Glassdoor last year ranking LLNL No. 6 on its list of the 100 best large places to work in the U.S. All of these accomplishments under Bill’s leadership have occurred while the Laboratory has maintained its reputation as one of the premier national security science institutions in the world.

A national search for a new Laboratory director and LLC president will commence immediately under the leadership of the University of California (UC). Employee and stakeholder input will be actively solicited.

Please join me in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Bill for his extraordinary service to the country and to LLNL. I thank each of you for your continued dedication to the successful execution of LLNL’s mission.

With my best regards,

Charlene Zettel
Chair
LLNS Board of Governors