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Education Commission of the States Selects Initial Slate of 100 District Leader Network Members

Superintendents and School Board Members Advance Citizenship Education and Service-Learning

DENVER – The Education Commission of the States (ECS) National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) today announced the initial slate of members of its 100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service-Learning Network.

Forty-four individuals – 23 district superintendents and 21 school board members – were selected from a national pool of applicants based on their leadership and commitment to integrate and sustain quality citizenship education and service-learning in K-12 schools. The other 56 Network members will be selected and announced in the fall.

The Network members will meet April 7 at the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. NSBA and the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) join NCLC in creating this national network.

“These district leaders, individually, are reversing the trend of youth disengagement. Now they have a formal mechanism to work together to advance this important mission of public education,” said NCLC executive director Terry Pickeral.

Network members will deepen support for citizenship education and service-learning in their districts. At the same time, they will broaden awareness of the importance of these two issues by writing articles, conducting workshops at state and national conferences and hosting policy forums.

“In the face of increasing pressure to raise test scores, school leaders often lose sight of the importance of preparing our children to be contributing citizens to their own communities and to our greater democracy,” said Anne L. Bryant, NSBA executive director. “This new network is a wonderful step to renew our commitment to the founding principle of public education.”

NCLC was formed in 1997 at ECS to assist state and district policymakers and education leaders to identify, develop and implement policies to support student academic and civic achievement. It is led by a board of chief state school officers, district superintendents, state legislators and national education leaders.

The National Center for Learning and Citizenship is supported by funds from The Bay and Paul Foundations, Inc., the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the State Farm Companies Foundation.

To see the names of the initial slate of Network members visit the NCLC web site at www.ecs.org/nclc or contact Ann Rautio at 303-299-3606 or arautio@ecs.org

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is an interstate compact created by the states, territories and the U.S. Congress that helps governors, legislators, state
education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonpartisan organization, ECS was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

Helping State Leaders Shape Education Policy