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Education Commission of the States’ (ECS) National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) Welcomes New Leadership

DENVER, CO – Today ECS announces the selection of JoAnn Henderson as the incoming executive director of its National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC). Her leadership follows outgoing executive director, Terry Pickeral, who served in this capacity for more than 12 years.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to work in the areas of civics, citizenship and service-learning — especially at this point in time in our country,” states Henderson.

Henderson comes to ECS with a 27-year history of educational service in Alaska. As the executive director of Alaska’s Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC), she implemented policies and programs to improve areas of teacher training, service learning, vocational education, English language learning and special education among many others. Henderson served as a member of the Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA) Federal Relations Committee focusing on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Additionally, for two years she acted as chair of the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and four years as a board member.

Henderson’s experience in Alaska complements the work of NCLC where the mission is to promote citizenship education as an essential component of America's education system. Part of NCLC’s efforts include the network of 100 District Leaders for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning, comprised of district superintendents and school board members who have demonstrated commitment to youth civic engagement and service-learning. The NCLC staff assists network members to deepen youth civic engagement and service-learning within their districts and to advocate for citizenship education across the country.

“NCLC has had a sizable impact on the quality, integration and sustainability of service-learning in America’s public schools. We look forward to an expansion of these efforts with the extraordinary addition of Henderson to ECS staff,” notes ECS President Roger Sampson.

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education. ECS helps governors, legislators, state education officials and others identify, develop and implement public policies to improve student learning at all levels. A nonprofit organization, ECS (www.ecs.org) was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.