The Education Commission of the States Honors Kati Haycock with 2009 Conant Award

DENVER, CO – Kati Haycock, founder of The Education Trust, will be awarded this year’s Education Commission of the States (ECS) James Bryant Conant Award for her exceptional contribution to childhood advocacy and classroom achievement. ECS and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty will present the award at the ECS National Forum on Education Policy this summer in Nashville, Tenn. July 8-10.

Named for Harvard University president and co-founder of ECS, the Conant Award has been labeled one of the most prestigious in the national education community. The honor recognizes individuals of outstanding influence in the classroom, remembering the careers of award winners such as Ron Wolk, Sharon Lynn Kagan, Thurgood Marshall, Marian Wright Edelman along with former Governors Gaston Caperton, Roy Romer, Richard Riley and James Hunt Jr. ECS is proud to augment this list with the lifelong achievements of Kati Haycock.

“Kati Haycock’s leadership and work using student achievement data has raised awareness and expectations for educators and policymakers. ECS is delighted to recognize the tremendous positive impact she has made on the American education system,” explained ECS President Roger Sampson.

Haycock founded The Education Trust, a national organization dedicated to “the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-kindergarten through college.” Acknowledged as a true authority in the world of education reform, Ed Trust advances its mission along several fronts, from raising its voice in national and state policy debates to helping teachers improve instruction in their classrooms. Regardless of where it occurs, their work maintains a relentless focus on improving the education of all students, and particularly those whom the system has traditionally left behind: low-income students and students of color.

Of additional significance was Haycock’s leadership at the Children’s Defense Fund, the nation’s largest child advocacy organization. Haycock’s influence also touched The Achievement Council, a California statewide organization that assists teachers and principals in improving student achievement in predominantly minority schools, as well as Outreach and Student Affirmative Action programs for the University of California system.

Currently Haycock serves on the boards of the Hunt Institute for Education Leadership and Policy, The New Teacher Project and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Educated in the Los Angeles city schools, Haycock received her bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her master’s degree in education policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

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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.