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SUNY’s Johanna Duncan-Poitier Appointed Commissioner for Education Commission of the States

Denver – State University of New York’s Chancellor’s Deputy for the Education Pipeline and Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Johanna Duncan-Poitier has been appointed by Governor David Paterson as one of six commissioners representing New York State on the Education Commission of the States.

ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education at all levels. Since 1965, ECS has helped states develop effective policy and practice in public education by providing data, research, analysis and leadership, and by facilitating collaboration among the states.

“Johanna has an extensive background in education policy in Pre-K-12 and higher education, making her an ideal candidate to provide leadership for ECS initiatives,” said SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher. “I commend Governor Paterson for making this appointment, and know that with Johanna’s help, ESC will boldly move forward with the critical importance of a systemic, boundary-spanning approach to shaping and improving public education in New York and across the nation.”

As an ECS commissioner, Dr. Duncan-Poitier will work to develop a state strategy for education reform, and promote partnerships between policymakers and the education community — within New York and across states. ECS commissioners also serve on advisory committees for ECS projects, programs and initiatives, and represent their state at the annual ECS National Forum on Education Policy, held next year July 6-8 in Denver.

“ECS commissioners bring a diversity of perspectives on the education challenges states are facing. With her vast experience in K-12 and higher education, Dr. Duncan-Poitier will be a great addition to the New York team of ECS Commissioners as they map out an effective education reform strategy for their state.” noted ECS President Roger Sampson.

“I am so pleased to have this opportunity to work more closely with such prominent leaders across the nation who are committed to excellence in education,” said Duncan-Poitier. “Together we can bridge the existing gaps within education policies to support student success and facilitate collaborations throughout the state.”

Each state is represented by seven ECS commissioners. In addition to Duncan-Poitier, other commissioners representing New York are Barbara Clark, New York State Assemblywoman and current Vice Chair of ECS;
Bethaida Gonzales, Dean of University College at Syracuse University; David Paterson, New York State Governor; Toby Stavisky, Chair of the New York State Senate Higher Education Committee; and David Steiner, New York State Commissioner of Education. There is currently one vacancy.

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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 was formed in 1965 and is located in Denver, Colorado.

The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating nearly 465,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses. To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunity, visit www.suny.edu

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