



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS

### **Marc Tucker, Governors Kaine and Shaheen to Discuss Tough Choices at ECS National Forum**

DENVER, CO – The Education Commission of the States announced today that it will kick-off its 2007 National Forum on Education Policy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a presentation on the recent report by the New Commission on the Skills for the American Workforce entitled, *Tough Choices or Tough Times*.

The session – *Tough Choices, Tough Times: Does our Education System need to be Rebuilt?* – will feature **Marc S. Tucker**, president of the National Center for Education and the Economy; **Timothy M. Kaine**, governor of Virginia; **Scott Palmer**, Holland and Knight, LLP; and will be moderated by former governor of New Hampshire and director of the Harvard Institute of Politics, **Jeanne Shaheen**.

The Commission's final report makes the case for a wholesale redesign of the education system and offers a comprehensive set of recommendations which includes redistributing education funding to pay for early childhood education, offering board exams in 10th grade to determine eligibility for higher education and shifting the burden for funding education completely to the state.

ECS Interim President Rod Chu said, "The *Tough Choices or Tough Times* report makes a compelling and provocative case for major changes that state policymakers should consider as they think about education policy which will ensure U.S. economic competitiveness in a global economy."

The opening plenary at the 2007 ECS National Forum represents a renewed commitment by ECS to engage state policymakers in the big ideas and policy issues that are facing states as they seek to provide high quality education for all of its residents.

This year's Forum features over 40 sessions on a variety of education topics: rebuilding the education system, early learning, teaching quality, STEM education; high school reform; student data systems; adult education; and turning around low-performing schools.

Chu said, "The ECS National Forum is the one education policy event where governors, chief state school officers, state higher education leaders, legislators and other state leaders come together to discuss the important issues shaping U.S. education policy. This year's meeting should prove to be a tremendous opportunity for both policymakers and practitioners to be exposed to the latest reforms in state education policy."

The Forum will take place July 10-13 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. To see the impressive list of speakers and sessions or register, go to <http://www.ecs.org/NF2007>, or call 303.299.3600.

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The Education Commission of the States (ECS) is a nationwide nonprofit organization 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***