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Reformers Join Ranks of Chiefs for Change

~Chiefs in Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee Join Coalition to Advance Bold Reform Across the Nation~

Washington, D.C. Education chiefs in five states today joined the ranks of Chiefs for Change, a bipartisan coalition of state education chiefs and leaders who are leading the nation in advancing bold reform. New members are Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi, Maine Commissioner of Education Stephen Bowen, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Chris Cerf, Tennessee Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman and New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary-Designate Hanna Skandera. Together, Chiefs for Change lead education reforms in ten states, representing one-fifth of the country and a combined population of 60 million.

Leadership matters, said Paul Pastorek, Louisiana Superintendent of Education and Chair of Chiefs for Change. These five education chiefs have demonstrated unwavering leadership in advancing bold reforms that focus on students success.

The mission of Chiefs for Change is to advance bold, visionary reform that improves academic achievement, closes achievement gaps and prepares students for success in college and careers. To accomplish the mission, Chiefs for Change will:

- Advance the next generation of innovative, results-based education reform in their states;
- Present a unified voice on federal education policy, including reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and
- Support and mentor "next generation" education reform leaders.

Chiefs for Change is committed to putting children first, said Indiana Superintendent Tony Bennett. States are leading the way in reforming education. By working together, we can grow the national movement to transform education for the 21st century.

Founding members include Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett, Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Deborah Gist, Louisiana

Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek, Virginia Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson and Florida Commissioner of Education Eric Smith.

The Chiefs will be releasing their principles for reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (the Elementary and Secondary Education Act) in the coming weeks. Visit

www.ChiefsforChange.org for more information about Chiefs for Change and to view each chiefs bio.

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