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Connecticut Recognized for Efforts to Transform Educator Preparation

State Selected to Take Part in National Network

(HARTFORD, CT)— State Department of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor today announced that Connecticut is one of seven states selected to participate in the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP), a two-year pilot program supported by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The announcement was preceded by the national announcement of NTEP made by CCSSO Executive Director Chris Minnich, who traveled to Connecticut for the occasion.

Recognized as a state poised to advance substantive policy changes and to take meaningful action, Connecticut will receive a \$100,000 grant and technical assistance to support the transformation of educator preparation programs in an effort to ensure teachers and administrators are “learner-ready” on day one of their careers.

“Improving our public schools can only happen in partnership with the thousands of hard working teachers in our state,” said Governor Dannel P. Malloy. “This grant will help us in our effort to make sure that teachers get the support they need each and every day of their career.”

Through NTEP, states will focus on areas where they can transform educator preparation to reflect the evolving landscape in PK-12 education systems and meet the demands of supporting all learners. Participating states will lead the way and serve as models for other states as they begin similar work.

“States across the nation have raised expectations for students, and that means that we have a responsibility to ensure that educators are prepared to help all students graduate ready for careers, college and lifelong learning,” said Chris Minnich, CCSSO Executive Director. “These seven states are among those on the leading edge of making substantive changes in the policy and practice of educator preparation.”

During the first year, Connecticut will concentrate on strengthening the educator preparation program approval process to ensure that all program completers are “learner-ready” and equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to prepare all students for success in college or careers. In

addition, the state will focus on developing a system for the collection and analysis of data to inform improvements to the preparation of educators for the workforce.

"In order to meet our goal of preparing every student for success in college and career, we must prepare each future educator for success. Our work regarding the rethinking and enhancement of teacher and leader preparation programs has been a collaborative effort. I am grateful to all the participants in Connecticut's process—including classroom teachers and college professors, school superintendents and university presidents—for focusing on this high priority work," said Commissioner Pryor. "The NTEP initiative will assist us in advancing efforts, already underway in Connecticut, that are aimed at positioning preparation program graduates for success as they begin their careers as teachers and school leaders."

"This grant is welcome news, it will help our Connecticut state universities achieve the highest standards and practices in teacher training and ensure that our newest teachers leave university ready for the rigors of the classroom," said Board of Regents for Higher Education President Dr. Gregory Gray. "Eighty percent of the students in our system will go on to live and work in Connecticut—improving how we train our teachers will directly impact classrooms across the state and strengthen our future workforce."

Collaborative efforts to study and make recommendations regarding these programs are already underway in Connecticut through the work of the Educator Preparation Advisory Council (EPAC). In March 2012, at the request of Governor Malloy, the State Board of Education formed EPAC, an initiative of the State Department of Education in partnership with the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The State Board of Education charged the group to develop a system for the approval, quality, regulation, and oversight of educator preparation programs for its consideration.

Participation in the NTEP pilot program will help advance EPAC's priorities as articulated in the six guiding principles for strengthening teacher and school leader preparation programs adopted by the State Board of Education in April and September, respectively.

EPAC is composed of representatives of higher education and school districts, as well as representatives from educational stakeholder groups, including the Connecticut Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut, the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Regional Educational Service Centers Alliance, the Connecticut State Board of Education, the Connecticut Council for Education Reform, the Connecticut Center for School Change and Teach for America, Connecticut.

The Connecticut State Board of Education is responsible for the approval, regulation and oversight of educator preparation programs.

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