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News Release

Colorado Literacy Council Members Named

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today announced the members of the Colorado Literacy Council, a group being convened to advise the Colorado Department of Education on literacy initiatives. The council will include department staff and representatives from higher education along with experts in the field of literacy instruction.

The council will provide insight on literacy initiatives including:

- Systems for reviewing literacy content in teacher preparation programs
- Revision of the Program for Licensing Assessment for Colorado Educators (PLACE) exams
- Topics for research forums and professional development with higher education
- Innovative literacy preparation programs

The 11-person council will be co-chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ken Turner and Debora Scheffel, director of literacy grants and initiatives.

Membership includes three additional staff from the department of education—Jeanette Cornier, assistant commissioner for support of standards achievement, Barbara Medina, director of English language acquisition and Jami Goetz, director of professional services.

Membership from the field will include the chair of the Colorado Council of Deans on Education; a college of education dean appointed from the western slope; a representative from the Colorado Council International Reading Association; a K-12 rural literacy representative appointed by regional superintendents; a representative from the community colleges; and a nationally recognized literacy expert.

The council will meet three times per year. Meetings will be open to observers and minutes will be posted online.

“The department looks forward to the impact this council can have as we form new and enhance existing partnerships with higher education,” said Commissioner Jones.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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