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April 8, 2008

News Release

Dianne Lefly Appointed Director of Research and Evaluation

Commissioner Dwight D. Jones announced the appointment of Dianne Lefly as director of research and evaluation for the Colorado Department of Education.

“Dr. Lefly’s extensive knowledge of assessment, advanced knowledge and expertise in research methods and demonstrated skill in identifying and solving complex problems makes her an ideal fit for this position,” said Commissioner Jones. “With Dr. Lefly at the helm, our state assessment data will continue to be the most stable, accurate and uninterrupted body of work in the nation.”

Lefly has recently served as supervisor of measurement in the assessment support unit. Previously, Lefly worked as a manager of assessment & testing research at Denver Public Schools and as a senior research associate for the department of psychology at the University of Denver.

The creation of the director of research and evaluation position is the first step in a larger plan to establish a formal assessment-based research office within the department. This position will take the lead on providing both internal research, analysis and shared research protocols to inform state policy decision making.

The director of research and evaluation was created from “Forward Thinking” Plan Goal 6, which called for the department to become “a

reliable source for research, data, analysis that is envied by all professionals.”

Commissioner Dwight D. Jones launched “Forward Thinking,” the department’s new plan to increase the graduation rate and close the achievement gap in all Colorado schools, in September 2007.

The appointment as director of research and evaluation is a shift in duties for Lefly and carries no increase in salary, said Commissioner Jones. The appointment is effective immediately.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, 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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