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News Release

Existing Staff Will Fill Two New Key Positions Created by S.B. 212

The Colorado Department of Education today announced that two employees within the department have accepted positions created to lend support to Senate Bill 08-212. Also known as the “Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Bill” or the “Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids,” the overarching work of S.B. 212 involves revising state standards and assessments in close collaboration with the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Samantha Long, formerly program consultant in the Office of Teaching & Learning, will serve as Project Manager for S.B. 212. The project management role will provide oversight, coordination and support for standards and assessment development and coordination for project-related activity between CDE and CDHE.

Prior to her work with CDE, Long worked as a research assistant with the Center for Education Policy Analysis at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs where she earned a master’s degree in public administration. She has a Bachelor of Science in policy studies and public relations from Syracuse University.

Holly Baker, previously principal consultant in the Office of Student Assessment, will take on a new position as the lead on a one-year pilot to evaluate standards and compare current assessment tools.

Prior to joining CDE, Baker worked at Aspen Middle School as a coordinator of the gifted and talented program and with the Anchorage

Public School District as a Language Arts teacher and gifted program coordinator. Baker has a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Alaska-Anchorage and will be finishing her doctorate in education leadership and policy studies from the University of Denver in Nov.

In other staff news, Dan Domagala will act as the new Chief Information Officer for CDE. For the past four years, Domagala has served as the Director of Information Management Services and as Manager of the Data Warehouse team. In total, Domagala has more than 20 years of experience in the information technology sector, leading numerous IT teams and projects in the government, travel and oil and gas industries. A homegrown product of Jeffco Public Schools, Domagala has a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems from Colorado State University and a M.B.A. from the University of Colorado.

The newly created position of Chief Information Officer will provide strategic technology direction and unify data management efforts for CDE while ensuring excellent operational execution of information systems, projects and plans. The CIO will be both visionary and pragmatic in addressing the information needs of education constituents within the department and across the state.

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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