



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 103
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

Nov. 23, 2009

News Release

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones Thanks Deputy Commissioner Ken Turner For Dedication And Service To Colorado Students

Colorado Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today thanked Deputy Commissioner Ken Turner for years of “profound and inspiring” service to Colorado students. Turner announced today that he will retire effective Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009.

“Dr. Turner’s tireless dedication to improving the quality of the learning environment for students is unmatched,” said Commissioner Jones. “Throughout his career as a teacher, principal, district administrator and in his time here at the department as deputy commissioner, Dr. Turner has worked relentlessly with others toward the goal of improving achievement for all students. His voice and his passion will be missed.”

Commissioner Jones noted Turner’s teamwork on such issues as implementing the Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K or House Bill 08-2120), aligning the state’s accreditation process, implementing the Colorado Growth Model, overseeing the development of new statewide content standards and rolling out the dozens of reforms embedded in “Forward Thinking,” the department’s blueprint for improved service and support to school districts statewide.

“In his years here at the department, Dr. Turner has travelled thousands of miles around the state to bring the work of the department to the field and to listen to educators, parents and the business community. He also has worked tirelessly to improve the connection with higher education, to build a more seamless pathway from high school to college. He has been both accessible and

ubiquitous," said Commissioner Jones. "You really have to wonder if he found a way to be in two places at once."

Turner joined the department of education in August 2007. Previously, he worked as deputy superintendent for Academy District 20 in Colorado Springs. He has been a teacher in Boulder, a principal in Littleton, an administrator in Westminster and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Colorado. Turner directed a study of longitudinal growth that formed the basis for Colorado law that places reliance on long-term growth as the key to evaluating school and district performance.

"I have always found the department of education's work to be meaningful and rewarding," said Turner. "It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of this 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>.

#