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News Release

State Board Of Education Member Elaine Gantz Berman Recognized As “Visionary Champion” For Health And Wellness

Colorado State Board of Education member Elaine Gantz Berman was recognized this week as a “Visionary Champion” for her commitment to the health and wellness of Colorado’s children.

Gantz Berman’s efforts were recognized during the Colorado Connections for Healthy Schools’ quarterly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9. The group represents a statewide coalition of over 400 education and health professionals who promote healthy youth and schools.

Through the leadership of Elaine Gantz Berman, the revised model Colorado state standards now include Comprehensive Health Education as well as Physical Education. The revised standards were unanimously adopted by the State Board of Education in December 2009.

Gantz Berman also has been recently appointed national co-chair of the National Association of State Boards of Education’s Childhood Obesity Prevention grant, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through their national program, Leadership for Healthy Communities. As co-chair, Gantz Berman will help lead the role of state education leaders in obesity prevention policy at the state and federal levels.

“With Ms. Berman’s vision, Colorado has become the 46th state to include health education standards as part of the knowledge and skills necessary for all children to become healthy, active citizens. Ms.

Berman's leadership has made this possible," said Sharon Murray, who is president of the Rocky Mountain Center for Health Promotion and Education. Murray also served as co-chair of the Health and Physical Education Standards Subcommittee during the development of Colorado's revised content standards, which were adopted by the Colorado State Board of Education in December 2009.

"Elaine has vision and she envelopes it with enthusiasm, dynamic drive, and a unique leadership style that attracts individuals from all segments of our community to support the needs of our children," said John Sbarbaro, who served on the Health and Physical Education Standards Subcommittee and who is the medical director at Leprino Foods Company.

Gantz Berman served as co-chair of the Denver Public Schools' Commission on School Nutrition and Physical Activity (when she served as a member of the DPS Board of Education) and she also has served as an executive committee member on the Denver Metro Commission on Health and Wellness.

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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