



Contact: Aimee R. Guidera
703-303-6912, Aimee@DataQualityCampaign.org

DATA QUALITY CAMPAIGN RECOGNIZES LEADERS Building and Using Longitudinal Data Systems

Kathy Gosa, Kansas State Department of Education, awarded *DQC 2008 Leadership Award*

Austin, TX — Nov. 15, 2008 — Four state and district leaders were honored by the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) during the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) Annual Policy Forum. The DQC, a national partnership to improve the quality, accessibility and use of data in education, recognized the award winners for their leadership and innovation in championing the vital need for quality education data. The DQC also released its third annual report on the progress states are making on building longitudinal data systems.

The DQC accepted nominations from across the country for leaders in the field of longitudinal data systems at the local and state levels. On behalf of its managing partners, the DQC is proud to announce the recipient of the following *DQC 2008 Leadership Award*:

- **State Data Director of the Year: Kathy Gosa**
Director of Information Technology, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

Kathy Gosa joined KSDE from private industry and brought to the agency a vision to integrate all areas of the organization under a cohesive data system. Under Gosa's leadership, KSDE has deployed a statewide longitudinal data system that provides valuable insights to policymakers, but also reports valuable information about students back to the teachers to help them plan instruction. Kathy has been instrumental in building governance policies that have codified how data are shared and used throughout and across education systems in Kansas. She has focused on ensuring the quality and promoting the use of these data at the school, district, and state levels.

Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell and Secretary of Education Gerald Zahorchak were jointly awarded the State Policymaker of the Year for their efforts in Pennsylvania, and Joe Kitchens, superintendent of Western Heights Public Schools in Oklahoma, was recognized as the District Data Leader of the Year.

To nominate a state or local leader for a *2009 DQC Leadership Award*, please e-mail Info@DataQualityCampaign.org.

The DQC is a national, collaborative effort to encourage and support state policymakers to improve the collection, availability and use of high-quality education data and to implement state longitudinal data systems to improve student achievement. The campaign provides tools and resources that assist state development of quality longitudinal data systems while providing a national forum for reducing duplication of effort and promoting greater coordination and consensus among the organizations focusing on improving data quality, access and use.

For more information on the DQC, its tools and resources, and the 2008 survey results, visit www.DataQualityCampaign.org or e-mail Info@DataQualityCampaign.org.

The campaign is managed by the National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is the founding funder; additional support has been provided by the Casey Family Programs and the Lumina Foundation for Education.

In September 2008, NCEA conducted a survey about state data systems to determine the number of states that have built the infrastructure to tap into the power of longitudinal data. NCEA conducted similar surveys in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Progress on the 10 Essential Elements of Longitudinal Data Systems

Longitudinal data — data gathered on the same student from year to year — make it possible to follow individual student academic growth, determine the value-added of specific programs, and identify consistently high-performing schools and systems. The DQC has identified the following 10 essential elements of a longitudinal data system and annually reports state progress in implementing each element:

1. A unique statewide student identifier that connects student data across key databases across years *(48 states report having this element, up from 36 in 2005)*
2. Student-level enrollment, demographic and program participation information *(49, up from 38 in 2005)*
3. The ability to match individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth *(48, up from 32 in 2005)*
4. Information on untested students and the reasons they were not tested *(41, up from 25 in 2005)*
5. A teacher identification system with the ability to match teachers to students *(21, up from 13 in 2005)*
6. Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned *(17, up from 7 in 2005)*
7. Student-level college readiness test scores *(29, up from 7 in 2005)*
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data *(50, up from 34 in 2005)*
9. The ability to match student records between the P-12 and postsecondary systems *(28, up from 12 in 2005)*
10. A state audit system assessing data quality, validity and reliability *(45, up from 19 in 2005)*

DQC Managing and Endorsing Partners

Managing Partners

Achieve, Inc.
Alliance for Excellent Education
Council of Chief State School Officers
Education Commission of the States
The Education Trust
National Association of State Boards of Education
National Association of System Heads
National Center for Educational Achievement
National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
Schools Interoperability Framework Association
Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services
State Educational Technology Directors Association
State Higher Education Executive Officers

Endorsing Partners

ACT
Alliance for Quality Teaching
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence
American Youth Policy Forum
APQC
Business-Higher Education Forum
Center for Teaching Quality
College Summit
Consortium for School Networking
Educational Policy Institute
ETS
GreatSchools
Institute for a Competitive Workforce (An Affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce)
Institute for Educational Leadership
James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy
Jobs for the Future
Knowledge Alliance
League of Education Voters Foundation
Learning Point Associates
Midwestern Higher Education Compact
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
National Student Clearinghouse
New England Board of Higher Education
Pathways to College Network
Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council
Pre-K Now
Roads to Success
Southern Regional Education Board
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

For more information, visit the DQC Web site at www.DataQualityCampaign.org.