



Arizona State Board of Education

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For Immediate Release
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State Board of Education Appoints New Executive Director

Phoenix, AZ – The State Board of Education recently voted to appoint Christine M. Thompson as Executive Director for the organization. Ms. Thompson succeeds Vince Yanez who announced earlier this month that he will leave the post to accept a position at the Arizona Community Foundation.

Thompson has been involved in public policy for two decades. Before joining the State Board of Education in 2012 as Deputy Director, Ms. Thompson served as Associate Vice President for Government Affairs for the Arizona Board of Regents and as Director of Government Relations for the State Bar of Arizona. Her background also includes work in communications, development and alumni relations, and management of a nonprofit involved with higher education advocacy.

“The State Board enthusiastically felt that Christine Thompson will do an outstanding job as our new Executive Director,” stated Board President Tom Tyree. “The experience that Christine possesses after having served as our Deputy Director will allow the transition to occur seamlessly and with minimal disruption during this very critical time as the Board addresses the many issues facing public education in Arizona. Her legal background and past experience in working with the legislature and other stakeholders in policy matters will serve the education system in Arizona well. We look forward to working with Christine in her new role.”

“While we are excited to welcome Christine to her new position, it is with the understanding that she has some very large shoes to fill. Vince Yanez’s service to the Board over the many years of his tenure has been outstanding. In speaking for this Board as well as those who came before us, we appreciate Vince’s professionalism, intellect and the strong work ethic he brought to the position. We wish him well in his new endeavor and know that he will continue to serve our great state well.”

In recognition of her new position, Ms. Thompson stated, "I look forward to working with our partners across the P-20 spectrum and supporting the Board in their unwavering commitment to further advance our high quality K-12 public education system to ensure Arizona students are on a continued path to college and career readiness."

Active in the community, Ms. Thompson currently serves as a member of the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education Board of Directors, and as a member of the University of Arizona College of Law Association Board of Directors. She previously served as Chairman of Kids Voting Arizona, as Treasurer of Soroptomist International of Phoenix, and, appointed by Governor Hull, as Student Regent on the Arizona Board of Regents. Ms. Thompson is a proud product of Arizona's public education system - she attended K-12 in Arizona public schools, and received her BA and JD from the University of Arizona.

The State Board of Education is created by the Arizona Constitution and charged with the responsibility of regulating the conduct of the public school system. The Board is composed of the following eleven members: the superintendent of public instruction, the president of a state university or state college, four lay members, a president or chancellor of a community college district, a person who is an owner or administrator of a charter school, a superintendent of a high school district, a classroom teacher and a county school superintendent. Each member, other than the superintendent of public instruction, is appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate. For more information visit, www.azed.gov/state-board-education/.

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