



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Palin Congratulates Education Commissioner on New Post

June 8, 2007, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin today accepted the resignation of Education & Early Development Commissioner Roger Sampson and offered her congratulations on the acceptance of his new position as President of Education Commission of the States. The Education Commission of the States is an interstate compact that exchanges information and ideas among state policymakers and education leaders.

“Commissioner Sampson has worked tirelessly for the students and teachers of Alaska for the past 20 years,” said Governor Sarah Palin. “While I am sorry to see Commissioner Sampson leave the Department of Education, I am excited for him because he has a tremendous opportunity to have an impact on a national level, which can only be good for the state of Alaska.”

“Leaving the Alaska commissioner’s position was a difficult decision,” said Commissioner Roger Sampson. “I have received great support from Governor Palin, the State Board of Education & Early Development, the staff at the department, and the school districts. The Education Commission of the States offered me an opportunity on a national level to develop policy and strategies that will improve the quality of education across the nation.”

“During Commissioner Sampson’s tenure, Alaska has moved forward to fulfill the board’s mission to ensure quality standards-based instruction to improve academic achievement for all Alaska students,” said Richard Mauer, chairman of the State Board of Education & Early Development. “We now have in place an accountability system of standards and assessments and a recently approved growth model that meet our expectations and which the U.S. Department of Education has approved as rigorous.”

The State Board of Education & Early Development appointed Sampson as the Alaska Commissioner of Education & Early Development on May 9, 2003. The board will conduct a national search for a replacement. Interested candidates may contact the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. Under state law, the board appoints the commissioner which is subject to the approval of the governor. The commissioner serves at the pleasure of the board. Commissioner Sampson will serve through August 17, 2007.

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