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Learning First Alliance Welcomes Richard Culatta to Board of Directors

Alexandria, Va. – May 22, 2016 – The Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of leading education organizations representing more than 10 million parents, educators and policymakers, welcomes Richard Culatta of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), as its newest board member.

Culatta, who became ISTE’s chief executive officer earlier this month, is well known in the education technology community for his success in building partnerships between the education and technology communities to bring new opportunities to schools and students.

“We are very excited to have Richard bring his immense experience and expertise to help further LFA’s advocacy and our work to advance public education,” said Richard M. Long, executive director of LFA.

“There are so many exciting ways ISTE and LFA can collaborate on our common mission to support students and educators,” said Culatta. “I’m looking forward to continuing our work together — particularly as it relates to leveraging technology as an impactful solution to some of the most significant challenges facing education today.”

Immediately prior to joining ISTE, Culatta served as Rhode Island’s Chief Innovation Officer, where he built a program to offer computer science in every K-12 school and created a state vision for personalized learning. He was director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology, where he led efforts to expand connectivity to schools across the country, promote personalized learning and develop the National Education Technology Plan.

Culatta has been an education policy adviser to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray and a learning technologies adviser at Brigham Young University, his alma mater, where he redesigned the technology component of the university’s teacher preparation program. In addition, he was director of operations for the Rose Education Foundation, which brought the first internet connections to schools in rural Guatemala. Culatta began his career as a high school teacher and throughout his career has coached educators on using technology to improve student learning.
About the Learning First Alliance
The Learning First Alliance is a partnership of leading education organizations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. Alliance members include: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; AASA: The School Superintendents Association; American Federation of Teachers; American School Counselor Association; Consortium for School Networking; International Society for Technology in Education; Learning Forward; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Education Association; National PTA; National School Boards Association and National School Public Relations Association.

To learn more about LFA, visit www.learningfirst.org.