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NSBA Executive Director Named Chair of Learning First Alliance’s Board of Directors

Alexandria, Va. – July 5, 2016 – Thomas J. Gentzel, executive director of the National School Boards Association, is the new 2016-17 chair of the board of directors for the Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of 14 leading national education organizations.

The organization also named JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, as its 2016-17 Secretary-Treasurer. Stephanie Hirsh, executive director of Learning Forward, is now the immediate past president.

Gentzel brings more than three decades experience in education policy and advocacy. Prior to joining NSBA as its executive director in 2012, he was a key figure at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, serving as its executive director for 11 years after working as chief lobbyist for more than 20 years. He also was an officer at the National School Public Relations Association and a member of Pennsylvania State University’s Outreach Advisory Board.

“Tom Gentzel’s deep knowledge of education and the policymaking process is a valued asset as the Learning First Alliance is turning its attention to the Every Student Succeeds Act and other federal actions,” said LFA Executive Director Richard M. Long. “I look forward to working with Tom and LFA’s new leadership team in the coming year.”

LFA has been a facilitator of leading education organizations since it was incorporated in 1996, and the alliance continues to cultivate relationships that advance best practices in public education. In coming months, LFA will be focusing on implementing college- and career-ready standards, ESSA and its requirements for educator engagement in the policymaking process, as well as the election transitions in Congress and the White House.

“This is an important time for the Learning First Alliance to bring together its members to build on our successes in public education and use our collective strengths to improve student learning,” said Gentzel. “I am honored to be leading the Learning First Alliance in its 20th year of service as we work with new leaders in Washington.”

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; National School Public Relations Association; and Phi Delta Kappa International. To learn more about LFA, visit www.learningfirst.org.

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