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AFT’s Marla Ucelli-Kashyap Elected Chair of Learning First Alliance

Alexandria, Va. (July 1, 2019) – The Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of leading education associations representing more than 10 million parents, educators and policymakers, has elected Marla Ucelli-Kashyap, assistant to the president and director of educational issues department at the American Federation of Teachers, as chair of its Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 term.

“Marla Ucelli-Kashyap is a superb advocate for public schools and their students, teachers, and all school staff who pay a vital role in our nation’s future,” said Richard M. Long, executive director of LFA. “Marla’s experience and knowledge of public education issues and challenges facing students and families will guide the Learning First Alliance’s work.”

As chair, Ucelli-Kashyap is committed to facilitating collaboration amongst LFA’s 12 member organizations to continue to improve public education quality and equity.

“The Learning First Alliance fills an important role by bringing together a diverse group of organizations that have one common interest, which is advocating for the needs of public schools,” Ucelli-Kashyap said. “I’m happy to have this opportunity to help showcase the successes of America’s public schools while advocating for their students and staff.”

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) represents 1.7 million teachers, paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators, and champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for students, their families and communities. Prior to joining AFT in 2011, Ucelli-Kashyap led the program on district redesign and leadership at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University.

LFA’s Board of Directors also elected Keith R. Krueger, CAE, CEO of CoSN (the Consortium for School Networking), as its 2019-2020 secretary/treasurer. Nathan R. Monell, CAE, executive director of National PTA and 2018-2019 LFA chair, also will serve on the executive committee as immediate past president.
Since it was incorporated in 1996, LFA has brought together the leading national education associations, which collectively represent 10 million parents, educators and policymakers, to collaborate on a variety of issues. LFA is planning Public Schools Week 2020 from February 24-28, celebrating the successes of public education as well as advocating for better resources and support for public schools. Ucelli-Kashyap also contributed to LFA’s publication, *The Elements of Success: 10 Million Speak on Schools that Work*, a compendium of research and best practices for building successful schools that is guiding schools and school districts across the country.

**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; 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 http://www.learningfirst.org/