



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT: Richard Lemons
1-202-536-6619**

The Connecticut Center for School Change Adopts New Name: *Partners for Educational Leadership*

Hartford, CT – October 18, 2021 – The Connecticut Center for School Change has a new name – Partners for Educational Leadership - that better reflects the growing impact and national reach of the organization.

The organization has been working for over 25 years to effect systemic improvements in learning and improve student outcomes in Connecticut schools. It partners with school districts to build leadership capacity, design effective and coherent systems, conduct systems audits, and promote more equitable schools and districts. Partners for Educational Leadership hosts an annual Equity Institute and staffs several prominent leadership networks, including the Connecticut Superintendents’ Network, the Systemic Instructional Improvement Program, and the Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Network. The work of Partners for Educational Leadership on coaching leaders, designing instructional rounds, and developing the Acceleration Framework is recognized across the state and nation.

“The initial concept of the Center was to provide a resource for public education leaders in the state,” said Richard Lemons, EdD, Executive Director. “More recently we have been asked to work with districts and states from coast to coast. Our services have been sought out by numerous national entities, including the U.S. Department of Education, yet our name implied we only serve clients in Connecticut.”

While Partners for Educational Leadership will continue to work with superintendents and principals throughout Connecticut, the organization will also be consulting with multiple school districts in other states, including Rhode Island, New York, and Washington.

“Partners for Educational Leadership provides school and district leaders with the methods, professional learning and support they need to make a difference for their students, families, and communities,” says Mark D. Benigni, Superintendent of Schools in Meriden, CT.

Dr. Lemons and his colleagues at Partners for Educational Leadership have published numerous books, articles and book chapters on change management, leadership, instructional equity, coaching, and organizational improvement.

Dr. Elsa M. Nunez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University and the Acting Chair of the Partners Board, commented: “The articles, blogs and books written by the staff now have a national following. This name change signals an exciting new chapter in the evolution of the organization.”



One of newest initiatives at Partners is called the “Acceleration Network Improvement Community (NIC).” It is comprised of six school districts committed to reimagining learning after the pandemic and working together to use improvement science to understand strategies that have the largest impact.

Isobel Stevenson, Director of Organizational Learning at Partners and author of *The Coaching Letter*, with a national followership in the thousands, explains the NIC’s significance. “The Acceleration NIC is a very ambitious project. We are facilitating a collective that is attempting to provide—to all students—top-quality instruction that will provide high support and high challenge no matter how much instructional time they missed. In addition, we are supporting the districts to get better at getting better, in the context of the most challenging time in education in a generation, perhaps a lifetime.”

For more information on the people and programs of Partners for Educational Leadership go to www.partnersforel.org.

###