

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE ADVOCATES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The Illinois Education Roundtable, a new organization consisting of representatives from school leadership associations and organizations from across the state, recently elected its first executive officers and approved bylaws with the goal of advocating for excellence in Illinois public schools.

The Roundtable will regularly and actively study, make recommendations and promote action on critical public policy issues relating to education. Consisting of representatives from 19 school leadership associations and organizations, the impact of the Illinois Education Roundtable will be widespread and influential on public policy issues in Illinois.

The member organizations collectively represent:

- 872 school districts,
- 6,104 school board members
- 7,000 professional school leaders
- 230,000 teachers and other school personnel
- 2.1 million students

Dr. Michael A. Jacoby, Executive Director, Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO) will serve as chairman; Jo Anderson, Executive Director, Illinois Education Association (IEA-NEA) is vice chair; Dr. Diane Rutledge, Executive Director Elect, Large Unit District Association (LUDA), is secretary; G. Lawrence Daghe, Regional Superintendent of Schools, ROE 17, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), is treasurer.

Beginning in August of 2006 a group of independent association leaders were invited by Large Unit District Association President Bob Nielsen (Superintendent, Bloomington Public Schools, District 87) and IEA-NEA Executive Director Jo Anderson to discuss the formation of an Illinois Education Roundtable. Subsequent meetings were held to identify and review common issues, to develop by-laws to govern the organization, and to frame the Roundtable's mission and guiding principles. By-laws were subsequently approved on January 16 and officers were elected on February 28, 2007.

Current issues being studied by the Roundtable include education reform and accountability, student assessment, NCLB, IDEA, teacher reform measures, and school funding. According to Dr. Jacoby, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials and Chair of the Roundtable; "Due to the depth and breadth of the member organizations and their individual impact throughout Illinois, The Illinois Education Roundtable will soon become one of the leading voices that will shape and inform education policy and reform."

For more information, refer to the attached document, ***ABOUT THE ILLINOIS EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE***, or contact Dr. Michael A. Jacoby, Chair of the Illinois Education Roundtable at: Illinois ASBO, NIU (IA-103) 108 Carroll Ave., DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-9366, mjacoby@niu.edu.