



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 20, 2007

CONTACT: Kim MacQueen
Communications Director
850-222-5052

Two Independent Education Organizations Form Partnership To Recognize Exemplary School Principals

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida TaxWatch Center for Educational Performance and Accountability (CEPA) announced today that the group has formed a partnership with the Florida Council for Educational Change (CEC) in order to explore a framework for recognizing exemplary school principals across the state.

“We know that the teacher is the most important factor in any classroom; we also know that the principal is the single most important factor in the vibrancy of any school,” CEPA Executive Director Betty Coxe said. “Building upon a solid foundation of 20 years of recognizing and rewarding the state’s most innovative, effective and productive workers, FTW has invited CEC to enter into a conversation between our two organizations about the best way to identify and recognize and reward these successful, high-quality school leaders.”

The concept for a “Preeminent Principals Program” will be funded by the boards of both organizations, and will include a principle leadership literature review and engagement of statewide education stakeholders. Planned end results could potentially include performance and mentorship bonuses and increased autonomy for high-performing Florida principals. While the two independent organizations carry different missions, they are compatible and complimentary. They share a common goal of increasing student achievement in the State of Florida while protecting taxpayer value and focusing on accountability.

CEPA conducts research, issues publications, and engages in meaningful actions to promote exemplary student achievement within a cost effective environment. CEPA analyzes and makes recommendations about educational policies, practices, and expenditures as regards their contributions to improved financial and student performance in Florida’s schools.

CEC is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization established by the Florida Annenberg Challenge and led by Executive Director Elaine Lifkin, Ed.D. Its mission is to focus on leadership to improve student achievement and address critical education issues.

“We look beyond the funding of public education to the quality we get on the return of that investment and know that our students, parents and taxpayers can do better,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, where CEPA is a Center of Excellence. “High-performing school principals can significantly increase the prosperity of the people of our state, the students, their families Florida’s hard-working taxpayers.”

###

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 28 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens’ hard-earned tax dollars. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.