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The Coalition for Community Schools
Welcomes New Steering Committee Members
Together We Make the Difference

Washington, DC-January 10, 2017–The Coalition for Community Schools (CCS) added five new Steering Committee members who are committed to ensuring that schools are flourishing communities where everyone belongs, works together, and thrives. The Steering Committee members include:

- Leah Austin, Vice President of Programs, Southern Education Foundation
- Rochelle Davis, President and CEO, Healthy Schools Campaign
- Suzanne Kerbow, Program Director for Education, Polk Bros. Foundation
- Sanjiv Rao, Senior Program Officer of Youth Opportunity and Learning, Ford Foundation
- Kyle Serrette, Director of Education Justice Campaigns, Center for Popular Democracy

Leah Austin oversees the Foundation’s efforts to use collaboration, advocacy, and research to advance equity and excellence in education for all students in the South, with community schools as a major focus of their work.

Rochelle Davis is a leading advocate for deeper relationships between education and health systems. Her work in this regard, in Chicago led to her to the national stage where she co-chairs the National Education + Health Collaborative together with the Trust for America’s Health.

Suzanne Kerbow has primary responsibility for the Polk Bros. Foundation’s on-going involvement in supporting Chicago Public Schools’ (CPS) full service community schools. She oversaw the Foundation’s Full Service Schools Initiative (1996-2000) and was a founding co-chair of the Chicago Campaign to Expand Community Schools (2002-07), a partnership between CPS and members of Chicago’s philanthropic community that helped launch more than 100 community schools.
Sanjiv Rao focuses on educational equity issues in the United States, making grants that support improvements in the public education system’s school day and the development of community schools to benefit low-income communities.

Kyle Serrette leads the Center for Popular Democracy’s work to organize local communities to advocate for community schools as the most viable strategy to nurture and sustain local public schools across the nation.

“The Coalition for Community Schools is thrilled to have five strong dynamic educational leaders who bring a variety of experience to help support our mission. Their decision to join our Steering Committee underscores the growth of community schools as a powerful vision for how schools and communities must work together to support public education and improve results for all our children and youth,” said Martin Blank, Director of the Coalition for Community Schools.

The Coalition goals includes growing to 200 community school places by 2020 and ensuring that all community schools are among the top half of schools by 2025. Our new Steering Committee members provide the know-how and passion for helping the Coalition accomplish these goals.

For more information about our new Steering Committee members or to schedule an interview please contact Latraniecesa (LJ) Wilson, Communications Coordinator, at wilsonl@iel.org or call 202-822-8405 ext. 146

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About the Coalition for Community Schools
The Coalition for Community Schools, housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), is an alliance of national, state and local organizations in education K–16, youth development, community planning and development, higher education, family support, health and human services, government, and philanthropy as well as national, state, and local community school networks. The Coalition advocates for community schools as a strategy to leverage local resources and programs, changing the look and feel of the traditional school structure to best meet the needs of children and families in the 21st century.

About the Institute for Educational Leadership
For a half-century, the Institute for Educational Leadership has championed the need for leaders at all levels to shake off their institutional constraints and work across boundaries to address the needs of young people and their families. Bound by no constituency, IEL serves as a catalyst that helps policymakers, administrators, and practitioners at all levels to bridge bureaucratic silos and undo gridlock to improve outcomes for all young people and their families. The work of IEL focuses on three pillars required for young people and their communities to succeed: Involving the broader community with public education to support the learning and development of young people; building more effective pathways into the workforce for all young people and
supporting the transition to adulthood; and preparing generations of leaders with the know-how to drive collaborative efforts at all levels.