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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Business Education Compact Names New Director**

BEAVERTON, OREGON—Diane Smith is announced today as the Business Education Compact’s first Director of its rapidly expanding Teaching and Learning Initiative. Beginning July 12, Ms. Smith will assume leadership of the BEC’s efforts to transform Oregon’s K-12 system through proficiency-based teaching and learning.

The need to dramatically improve student achievement is widely acknowledged. Toward that end the BEC has been leading a statewide movement to transform the K-12 system and ensure that every high school degree is a predictor of success. The growing momentum of that movement requires the dedicated leadership that Ms. Smith will bring to her new role.

It was Tamra Busch-Johnsen, BEC Executive Director, who in 2003 launched what was then known as the Collaborative Teacher Development Initiative. Through her leadership the program has developed firm roots and a promising future for BEC’s work in proficiency and Oregon public education. “I am delighted to welcome Diane into the BEC,” stated Ms. Busch-Johnsen. “No one has more knowledge of proficiency at a state and national level, more practical implementation experience, or more passion for the work than Diane. Her extensive network of professional relationships and her intimate knowledge of the challenges faced by schools are precisely what the BEC needs—what Oregon needs.”

Ms. Smith brings to the BEC 35+ years experience as an active member of the Oregon education community, most recently as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Greater Albany Public School District. She is an acknowledged expert with 15 years of proficiency practice as a teacher, principal and district-level administrator and author of numerous articles and training documents on proficiency-based practices. And as an adjunct faculty member at three state universities, Diane is well-positioned to connect K-12 proficiency practices to higher education teacher preparation programs. “The improvement of student achievement is a compelling reason for every district to focus on a strategic plan to address proficiency practices. I am excited to help accelerate BEC’s proficiency work with new district, state and national partners,” Smith noted.

Ms. Smith holds a bachelors in English Literature from Whitman College, a masters in Education from Oregon State University, and an administrator’s license through Portland State University.

Diane can be reached at (503) 646-0242 x28.

#### **About the Business Education Compact**

Since its founding as a nonprofit organization in 1984, the Business Education Compact has been making vital connections between the classroom and workplace in pursuit of its mission: Make Learning Real. To ensure the academic foundation necessary for success, the BEC is leading a statewide initiative to transform K-12 education through proficiency-based teaching and learning. Complementing those efforts, the BEC provides students with impactful experiences to help them discover and pursue their career dreams and interests. Through in-depth internships, students gain practical knowledge of the workplace. And during National Engineers month each February, tens of thousands of students are introduced to a world of career opportunities available to those who excel in science and math.

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