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SCHOOLWORKS ANNOUNCES CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Company Enters its Third Decade as a Woman-Owned Enterprise

[BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS, January 2019] Massachusetts-based education consulting company SchoolWorks has announced a transfer in ownership to long-term President, Kim Wechtenhiser-Perron, effective January 1, 2019. Specializing in data-informed assessment, planning and improvement supports for schools, SchoolWorks has reviewed and documented the work of thousands of organizations nationwide, and now plays a partnership role in helping schools, districts, charter networks, authorizers and other education organizations develop and implement effective programs, practices, and meaningful improvement plans.

Founded by former Managing Partner Ledyard McFadden in 1998, the company has provided a variety of high-quality education consulting services to state departments of education, school districts, charter school networks and individual schools across the county for over 20 years – including quality reviews, school design and accountability services, leadership supports, instructional supports and lead partner services. McFadden oversaw many of SchoolWorks' milestone projects, including early relationships with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the School District of Philadelphia, and the Broad Foundation. As the company grew, he hired Wechtenhiser as a consultant in 2008. She was promoted to Director of Project Management in 2010, and ultimately to lead the company as President in 2012. Upon deciding to sell the company in 2018 in order to pursue other interests, McFadden approached Wechtenhiser as a potential buyer. "Kim has demonstrated tremendous leadership capabilities during her time at SchoolWorks," says McFadden. "It was important to me to keep the culture and mission of SchoolWorks intact, so it was my great fortune that I was able to transfer ownership to Kim. I am also proud to watch the company evolve into a woman-owned enterprise."

Kim Wechtenhiser-Perron joined SchoolWorks in 2008 after serving as the Associate Vice President of the Charter Schools Institute at the State University of New York and previously as the Coordinator of New Schools Development for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Charter School Office. Drawn to the high impact of consulting work, Wechtenhiser-Perron became instantly passionate about her role at SchoolWorks and helped spearhead the company's expansion into multiple new service areas. As owner, she is committed to continuing

to evolve the company’s service offerings to meet client needs, while maintaining SchoolWorks’ distinction as a high-quality, client-centric service provider. “This is such an opportune time for SchoolWorks,” says Wechtenhiser-Perron. “The company is entering into its third decade at a time when education leaders at every level are changing the way they engage in the work, particularly as our culture shifts to embrace new technologies and provide access for an increasingly diverse population of learners. I’ve always been proud to represent the evidence-based and collaborative approach to consulting services that Ledyard established at SchoolWorks. I look forward to leading the company and our team in new directions as we continue to deliver effective supports for the sector’s increasingly complex challenges.”



SchoolWorks Owner, Kim Wechtenhiser-Perron.

About SchoolWorks

SchoolWorks, (www.schoolworks.org) is an education consulting company with the mission of advancing all aspects of student learning and well-being by building the capacity of educators and educational institutions to assess, plan for, and achieve student success. With a foundation in assessment services, SchoolWorks has reviewed and documented the work of thousands of schools and districts since the company’s inception in 1998—developing and refining a proprietary set of research-based criteria (SchoolWorks Quality Criteria) and an evidence-based classroom observation tool (SchoolWorks Classroom Visit Tool) that serve as the framework for this work. With decades of insight into best practices across the sector, SchoolWorks provides high impact services to schools, districts, state departments of education, charter school authorizers, and other education reform organizations. The company’s consulting services include: 1) designing accountability frameworks; 2) school/district assessment; 3) leadership supports; 4) instructional supports; and 5) school developer supports.