

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release



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CENTER FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCES McCLENNEY RETIREMENT AND NEW DIRECTOR

AUSTIN, TX — Kay McClenney, Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin, has announced her plan to retire on May 2, 2014. McClenney has led development of the Center's work from its inception in 2001. To date, the Center has surveyed over 2.4 million students at 901 community colleges in 50 states and the District of Columbia, plus five Canadian provinces and Bermuda, the Northern Marianas, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia. Colleges that have participated in Center surveys represent 81% of the nation's public community colleges, and student respondents from participating colleges represent a total enrollment of over 6.8 million credit students.

McClenney also has served as a leader in a number of other national initiatives focused on community colleges and higher education more broadly, most recently as co-chair of the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges.

In light of this transition, the Department of Educational Administration and the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin have selected Evelyn N. Waiwaiole, Ph.D., as

the new Director of the Center, which is part of the Program in Higher Education Leadership in the department. Dr. Waiwaiole's appointment will take effect upon McClenney's retirement.

Now serving as an Associate Director of the Center, Dr. Waiwaiole has managed major multi-year grant-funded projects for the Center, while also overseeing significant aspects of its college-relations work. Her experience with the Center extends back to its start-up phase more than a decade ago. Within that time period, she also served for four years as Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), also at The University of Texas at Austin.

McClenney offered enthusiastic endorsement for the Waiwaiole appointment and an optimistic view of the Center's future. "The Center is strong, enjoying continuing support from community colleges across the nation and beyond, as well as from national leaders in higher education and philanthropy," McClenney said. "Evelyn Waiwaiole is an exceptionally strong leader, working with a staff that is highly competent and wholly committed to high performance in fulfilling the Center's mission.

Randy Bomer, Chair of the Department of Educational Administration, agrees: "Given her leadership roles, her national network across community colleges, state postsecondary systems, and higher education organizations, and her organizational management experience, Dr. Waiwaiole will ensure a seamless leadership transition for the Center and a continuing record of positive impacts on educational quality and student success. We are pleased to have Evelyn as a new partner, just as we have been immensely grateful for our partnership with Dr. McClenney over the years."