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Contact: Melanie Ross Levin
(302) 504-5240
info@vision2015delaware.org

Vision 2015 Applauds Governor Minner's Executive Order Forming LEAD Committee and \$3 Million Private Sector Contribution

The Chair of the Vision 2015 statewide education initiative today applauded Governor Ruth Ann Minner's Executive Order #98 establishing the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware Committee (LEAD Committee) and the \$3 million commitment by the Delaware Business Roundtable to support Vision 2015 recommendations. The Delaware Business Roundtable committed a portion of the \$3 million to support the independent cost analysis that was called for by Executive Order #98. The private funds will also support the launch of the Delaware Virtual School and operational support to initiate the Vision Network.

The LEAD committee was created to develop specific proposals for the Governor and General Assembly directly related to Vision 2015 recommendations. Members of the LEAD Committee will include 19 public, private, and independent sector representatives. The committee has been assigned three projects aligned with the Vision 2015 recommendations:

1. *An independent cost analysis of Delaware's current public education budget and how those funds can most effectively support student achievement.*
2. *Developing a "one-page, plain language summary of key performance measures" that will provide useful and understandable information about the performance of every public school, district, and the State.*
3. *An analysis of the optimal way for the state and school districts to generate and distribute State and local education funding to increase the adequacy and equity of our system for funding public education.*

The work that LEAD is charged with doing will provide valuable building blocks toward the creation of a world class public education system.

“We applaud Governor Minner for her leadership in education, and we appreciate her recognition of the significant contributions made through Vision 2015 to public education in Delaware,” said Marvin N. Schoenhals, Chairman of WSFS Financial Corporation who serves as the Chair of Vision 2015. *“The Governor’s creation of the LEAD Committee marks a commitment to several major Vision 2015 priorities that will ensure public funds are spent most effectively to meet the needs of all of our students, and to track performance and progress.”*

Mr. Schoenhals concluded, *“The Vision 2015 Implementation Team* looks forward to continuing to work with school administrators, teachers, students, parents, policymakers, and community groups to build the world-class education system described in the plan.”*

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** The nine-member Vision 2015 Implementation Team is a subset of the 28-member Steering Committee that drafted the Vision 2015 Plan. The nine members include: H. Raye Jones Avery, director of the Christina Cultural Arts Center; Dr. Kevin Carson, President, Delaware Chief State School Officers Association; Cynthia DiPinto, WolfBlock Public Strategies; Dr. Paul A. Herdman, President and CEO, Rodel Foundation of Delaware; Dr. Daniel Rich, Provost, University of Delaware; Marvin N. Schoenhals, Chairman, WSFS Bank; John H. Taylor, Jr., Executive Director, Delaware Public Policy Institute; Howard Weinberg, Executive Director, Delaware State Education Association; and the Honorable Valerie A. Woodruff, Delaware Secretary of Education.*