

FOR RELEASE: JANUARY 26, 2007  
9:00 AM

CONTACT: Melanie Ross Levin  
PHONE: 302-504-5240

## **Vision 2015 Committee Thanks Governor Ruth Ann Minner for Her Budget Recommendations**

*Statement by Marvin N. Schoenhals, Chair, Vision 2015 Steering Committee and Chairman, President and CEO, WSFS Bank*

Last week, in her State of the State address, Governor Ruth Ann Minner made a strong declaration of support for the Vision 2015 plan to improve Delaware's public schools. Today, she demonstrated her support by including \$3.9 million in new funding in her FY 2008 Budget recommendations that support or are consistent with Vision 2015. New funding for the Department of Education and the University of Delaware includes commitments to virtual learning, quality early childhood education, and professional development. We thank Governor Minner for her commitment to building a foundation on which we can build future efforts that will create a world class education system for every Delaware student.

From the beginning, Governor Minner has said that she would need to work within the realities of Delaware's budget in her funding recommendations for Vision 2015. We understand this. Just as Vision 2015 is a comprehensive plan for systemic reform, we know that funding for the plan will address a spectrum of needs, and, therefore, will come from many sources over many years. Comprehensive, bold changes take time and we are committed to getting them right.

Over the coming months, we will be working with our General Assembly to explore approaches to funding Vision 2015. As Delaware is among the top ten U.S. states in education spending, we also will be looking into opportunities to improve the effectiveness of what we spend and to get more funds into the classroom. And we will be making good on our commitment to raise a major portion of Vision 2015 funding from private corporate and foundation sources.

Governor Minner's budget recommendations continue her longstanding support for education in Delaware and her ongoing interest in building a public school system that will prepare Delaware's children for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is an important investment in the promise of Vision 2015 — and we look forward to realizing that promise in the months ahead.