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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Inslee Appoints 3 New Members to the Washington State Board of Education With Expertise in Closing the Achievement Gap

OLYMPIA — On March 11, the State Board of Education welcomed three new board members appointed by Governor Inslee. All three have extensive expertise in closing the achievement gap in Washington's public schools.

Dr. Deborah Wilds, of Renton, Washington, was appointed to a 4-year term. Dr. Wilds has a long track record of implementing programs designed to help close the achievement gap in Washington State.

Dr. Wilds is currently President and Chief Operating Officer of the College Success Foundation, which provides a continuum of supports designed to help underserved, low-income students finish high school and pursue post-secondary education. Before that, Dr. Wilds was a senior program officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she helped establish the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, the Gates Cambridge Scholars and the Washington State Achievers Program.

Dr. Wilds has co-authored several books, written more than 20 articles, and co-authored the American Council on Education's Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education.

Dr. Wilds currently serves on the Boards of Philanthropy Northwest, College Spark, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development, as well as the University of Washington-Bothell Advisory Board, and the Seattle University Board of Regents.

Wilds holds a Ph.D. in education policy, planning, and administration from the University of Maryland at College Park, an master's degree in education administration from Howard University and a bachelor's degree from the California State University, San Diego.

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to help the Board close achievement gaps in Washington State," said Dr. Wilds.

Mrs. Isabel Muñoz-Colón, of Tacoma, Washington, was appointed to fill the remaining year of the term vacated by Sheila Fox. Ms. Muñoz-Colón has extensive expertise in crafting state policies which help English language learners achieve academic success.

Mrs. Muñoz-Colón is currently a Policy Advisor for the City of Seattle's Office of Education, where she also co-chairs the English Language Learner working group for the South King County Roadmap Project.

Mrs. Muñoz-Colón also has extensive experience working for education policy and research organizations in Washington state. She has worked at the Office of the Superintendent of

Public Instruction as the Director of Financial Policy and Research, where she was lead staff to the Quality Educational Council. She has also worked at the Workforce Training and Educational Coordinating Board, and the Center for Reinventing Public Education.

Mrs. Muñoz-Colón has a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and a master's degree from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

"Serving on the Board helps me advocate for the needs of English Language Learners and other marginalized students with the goal of improving their academic outcomes statewide" said Ms. Muñoz-Colón.

Tre Maxie, of Seattle, Washington, was appointed to a 4-year term. Mr. Maxie was already on the Board in an elected capacity.

Mr. Maxie has dedicated his career to working for equitable educational opportunities for all students. He is currently the Executive Director of Powerful Schools, an organization that reduces the academic achievement gap by creating strong partnerships with public schools to help children thrive through literacy, arts, and after-school and leadership programs.

Governor Inslee complimented the new members and what they could bring to the important work of the State Board.

"Our state Board of Education is pivotal in setting the stage for quality schools throughout Washington," said Inslee. "Tre, Deborah and Isabel will provide new voices and perspectives as we work to create a seamless education system and help each of our students succeed and graduate."

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About the State Board of Education: The State Board of Education provides advocacy and strategic oversight of public education. The Board is comprised of 16 members: five are elected by school board directors, seven are appointed by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member. The Board's recent work includes the approval of a new career and college-ready graduation requirements framework and developing the first Washington state intervention policy into our persistently lowest-achieving schools.