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The Learning First Alliance Names Jack Jennings as its 2012 Education Visionary Award Winner

Center on Education Policy Founder Jack Jennings honored as a long-time champion of public education reform

Washington, D.C. – May 17, 2012 – The Learning First Alliance (LFA), a partnership of 16 national education associations representing more than ten million parents, educators and policymakers dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools, is honoring Jack Jennings as its 2012 Education Visionary Award winner. Jennings is the founder of the Center on Education Policy, one of the most influential education groups in the United States.

Jennings founded the Center on Education Policy, a national, independent advocate for more effective public schools, in 1995. From 1967 to 1994, he served as subcommittee staff director and then as a general counselor for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor. In these positions, he was involved in nearly every major education debate held at the national level, including the reauthorization of such important legislation as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Vocational Education Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Higher Education Act, and the National School Lunch Act.

Jennings is currently a member of the National Academy of Education and has served on the board of trustees of many organizations, including the Educational Testing Service, the Title I Independent Review Panel and the Pew Forum on Standards-Based Reform. He has received awards from dozens of organizations for his work in education, and most recently was the

recipient of awards for distinguished public service from the American Education Research Association and from Phi Delta Kappa International.

Jennings has written a book on the politics of national education standards, edited four volumes on federal education policy, and writes a blog for the *Huffington Post*. He holds an A.B. from Loyola University and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law, and he is a member of several legal bars, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Honorees of the Learning First Alliance Education Visionary Award are individuals who exhibit:

- Exceptional leadership in bringing groups who have a variety of points of view together to work collaboratively
- Tenacity in focusing on the needs of children from all environmental and economic backgrounds
- Respect for professional educators and a belief that they too have the best interests of children as the focus of their work
- A demonstrated belief that public education is the cornerstone of our democratic way of life and should be nurtured for the benefit of every American

“Jack Jennings has spent his career working tirelessly to improve public education and embodies the very essence of this award,” said Cheryl Williams, executive director of the Learning First Alliance. “Through the Center on Education Policy, his influence and reach will have an ongoing impact on our nation’s schools, and pave the way for the next generation of educational leaders to come.”

About The Learning First Alliance

The Learning First Alliance is a partnership of 16 leading education associations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools.

Alliance members include: the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Personnel Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Association for Middle Level Education (formerly National Middle School Association), International Society for Technology in Education, Learning Forward (formerly National Staff

Development Council), National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National School Public Relations Association, National PTA, National School Boards Association and Phi Delta Kappa International. The Alliance maintains www.learningfirst.org, a website that features what's working in public schools and districts across the country.

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