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## **Partnership for Learning Appoints New Executive Director**

**SEATTLE – April 7, 2008** – Partnership for Learning, an independent statewide education nonprofit, announced today the board appointment of Larry Ehl as executive director. Ehl has held numerous senior level public affairs and government relations positions and is a seasoned communicator with more than 24 years of experience in strategic advocacy.

Most recently, Ehl served as the director of government relations for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) where he established effective relationships with legislators and the Governor's office, assisted in developing department communication strategies and helped elected officials and the public better understand good transportation policy. Also at WSDOT, Ehl represented Washington's transportation interests to Congress as a federal relations manager and secured funding for transportation projects that were important to communities.

"This is an important moment in Washington education reform," said Steve Mullin, president of the Washington Roundtable. "Larry will be an outstanding representative for the business community to engage in important school improvement discussions and initiatives."

Prior to his work with WSDOT, Ehl served as director of corporate and government relations for Fisher Communications helping to strengthen the corporation's federal, state and local legislative relationships and functioning as chief advocate on legislative and regulatory issues.

And, as a citizen committed to Washington public education, he held a six-year term on the Edmonds School Board, which was named under his tenure as the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) School Board of the Year and given the WSSDA Diversity Award for outstanding efforts to promote diversity and multiculturalism.

As the Partnership's new executive director, Ehl will lead the organization's communications and outreach work with a focus on four key issue areas:

- The successful implementation of Washington's new graduation requirements;
- Ensuring all students graduate from Washington schools ready for college and work;
- Advocating for increased supports and accountability for persistently struggling schools and districts; and
- Strengthening students, parents and the general public's understanding of the importance of taking challenging and rigorous coursework throughout high school, particularly in the area of math.

Partnership for Learning is an independent, statewide nonprofit organization that communicates about Washington State's school improvement efforts and the need to better prepare all of our high school graduates for the demands of today's global society. To learn more about Partnership for Learning, visit the organization's website at [www.partnership4learning.org](http://www.partnership4learning.org).

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