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**CALIFORNIANS DEDICATED TO EDUCATION FOUNDATION
NAMES JESSICA HOWARD AS NEW CEO**

Los Angeles and Redwood City, CA (July 15, 2019) -- Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation (CDE Foundation) announced today that it has named Jessica Howard as the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization. Howard begins her tenure as former CDE Foundation CEO Shelly Masur departs to run for California State Senate after five years with the organization.

CDE Foundation has established significant partnerships across the state with organizations, funders and school districts to address specific topics in public education today. Many of CDE Foundation's core programs have grown to become a part of an education network of resources that expands opportunities to collaborate and increase capacity on behalf of California's students.

"Jessica's experience with the organization, leadership style and commitment to improving public education are just a few of her many qualifications that make her the right choice as the new CEO for the foundation," said Jennifer Peck, CDE Foundation Board Chair. "She brings energy and vitality to the long-term vision and promise of the foundation, and we foresee more growth under her leadership."

Howard was previously the Director of STEAM Initiatives, which included leading the annual 3,000-attendee California STEAM Symposium and the California Alliance for Next Generation Science Standards (CA4NGSS) coalition. Her work has increased the quality and accessibility of STEAM professional learning opportunities for educators, helped build and communicate support for more equitable standards implementation, and brought private and public funders together to better resource California's teachers, students, and schools.

"I am delighted and honored to have the opportunity to lead CDE Foundation. I look forward to creating environments where all of us committed to providing a brighter future for California's students can collaborate and flourish," said Howard.

Prior to joining CDE Foundation, Jessica was an Education Pioneers Fellow, worked in higher education as an undergraduate admissions officer at the University of Southern California, and served as a Congressional district staff member. She holds a M.S.Ed. in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Art History from Williams College. Based in Los Angeles, Jessica also volunteers with several non-profits in the Southern California region to support equity in expanded student services, arts and STEAM education, and college access. Teachers are her heroes.

For more information about the organization, please visit www.cdefoundation.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About The Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation

The Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation works as a trusted partner with state education leaders and entities to create, resource, and implement solutions that result in a strong and valued public education system that serves every student in California. Key programs include the California STEAM Symposium, the California Labor Management Initiative, the Alliance for Continuous Improvement, the California Alliance for Next Generation Standards, Family Engagement and LCAP and Collaboration in Common.

The Foundation is anchored by a small professional staff, a highly engaged Board of Directors, and a complement of skilled and effective consultants. Since its inception in 2011, the Foundation has forged strong partnerships with the California Department of Education (CDE), educational institutions, foundations, corporations, non-profits, and a network of individuals and education coalition members across the state who share a commitment to public education and California's students.