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REACH ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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By Amy Pederson

Lisle, IL – Members of the nonprofit consortium REACH (Resources for the Education of Adults in the Chicago Area) announced new officers and Board of Directors members who began their terms on June 2, 2016. The Board makes decisions, authorizes rulemaking, and oversees REACH operations.

Frank Provenzano was elected President to serve a 2 year term from 2016 to 2018. President Provenzano is currently Manager of Corporate Enterprise Learning at Herzing University. He served in the US Army from 1991 to 1999 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Illinois State University. Since 2005, he has served REACH in various roles including Membership Chair, Education Chair, Treasurer, and two terms as President. President Provenzano stated, “my goals as REACH President are to streamline our processes and procedures and strengthen our communication between the organization and membership.”

President Provenzano is joined by Vice President, Meagan Near. Ms. Near is the Director of Adult Degree Completion Programs at Aurora University. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Business Administration from Aurora University. She has served REACH since 2010 in the following roles: Secretary, Chairman of the Board, Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee, and Professional Development Day & Scholarship Luncheon Committee. Vice President Near stated, “I look forward to leading the organization to clarify and achieve new goals, strengthening the bond between leadership and membership and continue to serve the adult student population to the best of my abilities.”

There were three seats to be filled on the Board of Directors. The following were elected to serve 3 year terms from 2016 to 2019: Gary Elkins, George William’s College of Aurora University; Chuck Morin, Marquette University; Kris Van Horn, Judson University. Past President, Kristy Goodwin, Governor’s State University, will complete the term left vacant by

newly elected Vice President Meagan Near. Christina Wuestling, University of Phoenix, has assumed the role of Chairman of the Board.

Committee chairs were also appointed. Stephanie Schaefer, National Louis University, and Lorry Cohn, Roosevelt University were named Membership Co-Chairs. This committee recruits and orients new members. Laura Beal, University of Phoenix, was named Education Fair Chair. The role of the Education Fair Chair is to oversee the coordination of all Education Fairs hosted by REACH.

REACH is a not-for-profit consortium of colleges and universities whose mission is to present educational opportunities to adult learners in the Chicago Area. Our members include academic institutions representing undergraduate, graduate and professional programs; technical, online, and vocational programs; as well as financial institutions and civic minded corporations. Every year, REACH gives up to five \$2,000 scholarships to adults looking to complete their education.

To learn more about REACH, visit reach-chicago.org