



ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Institute for Educational Leadership Names Martin Blank President

Washington, DC -- The Board of Directors of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) has named Martin Blank (Marty) as its new President. Blank has served as the Director of the Coalition for Community Schools at IEL for the past decade where he has skillfully crafted a vibrant national movement for deeper relationships between schools and communities. That vision is shared by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Marty will continue that focus as part of his leadership of IEL.

Previously and during his more than 20 years at IEL, Blank has worked on education, health and social services and community development issues in rural and urban settings. He is the co-author of *Together We Can: A Guide for Crafting A Profamily System of Education and Human Services* and *Education and Community Building: Connecting Two Worlds*. His articles have appeared in *Educational Leadership*, *Shelterforce*, *Our Children*, and numerous other publications. He has J.D. from Georgetown University and an A.B. from Columbia University

Former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, the Institute for Educational Leadership's Board Chair, praised the appointment, saying, "The challenges that our nation faces in educating all of its children and youth and preparing them for work and citizenship require leaders who can bring people together to solve problems. Marty Blank is that kind of leader."

Regan Kenyon, Chair of the IEL Search and Transition Committee and President of the Secondary School Admission Test Board, added, "Our transition and search committee had the expertise of our talented Board of Directors, including Joseph A. Aguerrebere, Jr., National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; John May, New Vantage Group, LLC and Ericka M. Miller, The Education Trust. This group knows what education reform requires, and after a thorough national search is convinced Marty is the right person to lead IEL into an even more significant role in making our schools more effective."

Upon accepting the position, Blank said, "Leading IEL at a time when education is among our top national priorities is a distinct privilege. I hope to take the Institute's capacity to cut across institutional boundaries and engage everyone – policymakers, practitioners and the public – in the education of our young people to a deeper level in the coming years. We must have better results."

Blank succeeds Elizabeth L. Hale (Betty) who has been IEL President since 2001 and has served IEL for 32 years. Betty will continue as a Senior Fellow for the Institute.

IEL is a national organization which believes that meeting the challenges of the 21st century requires that people, organizations, and systems break down silos and work across boundaries. In this context, IEL helps those in education and related fields to develop the leadership, policy, and organizational capacity to join forces to achieve better results for children and youth. The

Institute focuses on leadership development, youth and workforce development, early childhood, high school reform and community-school connections.

IEL's current initiatives include the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth, the Leadership Center for School and Community, the Center for Workforce Development, the Coalition for Community Schools and the Education Policy Fellowship Program. For over 45 years IEL has sponsored the Education Policy Fellowship Program, a training ground for more than 6,000 future leaders.

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