



PRESS RELEASE
December 22, 2006

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Joan Herman and Carol Thomas Named Co-Chairs of NEKIA's Board

WASHINGTON, DC – The board of directors of the National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA) has appointed Dr. Joan Herman, Director of National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA and Dr. Carol Thomas, CEO of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL), as the organization's co-chairs for 2007.

Herman became a director of CRESST in 2000, where her research has probed the effects of testing on schools and the design of accountability and assessment to support educational improvement. A former teacher and school board member, she is noted for her work bridging research and practice and has published extensively. She is past president of the California Educational Research Association; served on the National Academy's Committee on the Design of Science Assessment; has held a variety of leadership positions in the American Educational Research Association and is a frequent advisor on state assessment policy. Herman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and masters and doctorate degrees from UCLA focusing on learning and instruction.

Thomas has served as NWREL's CEO since 2001. She previously served as NWREL's associate executive director and supervised the directors of the laboratory's 12 programs. Thomas has held positions in education at local and national levels, and has developed educational programs and published numerous papers. She has a 14-year record with other educational laboratories throughout the United States. Thomas holds bachelor's and master's degrees from San Francisco State University, and a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley.

"We along with all of NEKIA's members believe that the effective use of research-based knowledge in school improvement is essential for innovation and improvement in K-12 education and should be a central organizing concept for federal education policy," said Herman and Thomas in a joint statement. "We look forward to working with the NEKIA board and staff in accelerating the nationwide efforts to prepare *all* students for success in the 21st century, narrow achievement gaps in K-12 education and transform education into an evidence-based field."

"Joan and Carol bring to NEKIA over 60 years of experience in education and career long commitments to research and development as the leading edge of innovation in education" said NEKIA President Jim Kohlmoos. "Their combined expertise and knowledge will serve NEKIA very well as it moves forward with an expansive policy agenda for evidence-based education and knowledge use."

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About the National Education Knowledge Industry Association

Founded in 1997 as a non-profit, non-partisan trade association (501c6), NEKIA is a strong and dynamic community of highly successful education organizations and agencies. The association actively promotes and advocates for the expanded use of

knowledge-based solutions in K-12 education. NEKIA is constantly looking for new and better ways to support high-quality education research, dissemination, technical assistance and evaluation at the federal, regional, state, tribal, and local levels.

About the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing

For 20 years the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) has conducted research and development that improves assessment and accountability systems. Spanning both K-12 and adult learning, the center also conducts a substantial number of major program evaluations, develops research-based assessments, uses technology as an effective assessment tool, and helps schools and districts respond to the many accountability demands of the No Child Left Behind Act.

About the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

For the past 40 years, NWREL's mission has been to improve educational results for children, youth, and adults by providing research and development assistance in delivering equitable, high quality educational programs. A private, nonprofit corporation, NWREL provides research and development assistance to education, government, community agencies, business, and labor. NWREL is part of a national network of 10 educational laboratories funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education. NWREL primarily serves the Northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, and also carries out numerous contracts across the nation.