



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 9, 2011

Contact: Charlene Briner
(651) 582-1145

Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius Appoints Assistant Commissioners

(Roseville, MN) – Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius has appointed Rose Wan-Mui Chu and Elia Bruggeman to serve as assistant commissioners at the Minnesota Department of Education. Both Bruggeman and Chu join the department with extensive educational experience and a commitment to helping children succeed.

"I am thrilled to welcome both Elia and Rose to round out my executive team," said Commissioner Cassellius. "Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to their positions, but more importantly, each brings a passion for helping kids succeed that will make them great advocates for all students and great additions to the team."

Dr. Chu comes to the department after seven years at Metropolitan State University, including serving for the past three years as chair of the Urban Teacher Program, which is devoted to increasing the number of teachers of color and preparing all teachers to provide quality education to diverse learners in the urban core. Her specialty, as an associate professor of education, is mathematics education: teaching, advising and supervising prospective urban math teachers. Her teaching and research interests include reform efforts in math education, and community engagement in educational equity and access. Prior to her joining the university in August 2004, Rose worked at the Minneapolis Public Schools for eight years as a classroom teacher, a district math specialist and a district math/science equity coordinator. Rose holds a Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and was formerly a research scientist at Honeywell.

Ms. Bruggeman is a professional educator and administrator with more than 25 years experience in a variety of school settings, including notable work in rural Minnesota districts and the Northwest Suburban Integration District. A teacher for 10 years in the St. James Public Schools, she has also been a professor at Minnesota State University-Mankato. In 1996, she began her career in administration as the Dean of Students at Sleepy Eye Schools, and the following year became the Sleepy Eye High School Principal. She has also served as the World Language Department Chair, and Academic Dean at Shattuck-St. Mary's Preparatory School in Faribault. She is a MNSU-Mankato fellowship award winner in the area of Educational Leadership to work with Aspiring Principals and teach classes in Curriculum Supervision.

Assistant Commissioners Rose Hermodson and Barb Yates, who have been assisting Commissioner Cassellius during the new administration's transition, will continue working at the department on a part-time basis.

-xxx-