



NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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COMMISSIONER LANA C. SEIVERS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LEAVE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen announced today that Lana C. Seivers, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, will be retiring from state service effective February 1, 2008. Seivers, who was appointed by Bredesen in January 2003, has accepted an opportunity in Mississippi to lead a newly established educational foundation dedicated to early childhood, teacher quality, community engagement and leadership.

Statement from Commissioner Lana C. Seivers:

"I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity Governor Bredesen has given me to serve as Commissioner of Education. In the past five years, I have learned a great deal from him about leadership, service, and setting clear priorities. Most important to me is that Governor Bredesen has made education his top priority. Every day I have been inspired and challenged by Governor Bredesen's commitment and dedication toward improving the quality of life in Tennessee for through the power of education.

"The decision to leave Governor Bredesen's administration and my lifelong home has been a difficult one. Because of Governor Bredesen's strong leadership, the excellent staff in the Department of Education, and the dedicated educators in every school district, I know Tennessee will continue to make steady progress in education. I've seen first-hand the way Governor Bredesen truly cares about this state and its children, and I am honored to have been a part of his administration."

Statement from Governor Phil Bredesen:

"Commissioner Seivers' service to the state of Tennessee has been truly exemplary. During the last five years, she has led the Department of Education in a number of initiatives to help fulfill its mission to provide quality education for every child in the state. From working with me to raise teacher pay above the Southeastern average to expanding the state's pilot Pre-K initiative into a program for four-year-olds across the state, she has served the state with distinction and dedication, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

"We will begin the process of finding a high quality candidate to succeed Commissioner Seivers as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition. We have very important work to continue at the Department of Education, and we will find an excellent person to fill the vacancy and to continue to lead this department forward."

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