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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION NAMES SARA MORRIS
TO SERVE AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO***

SEATTLE, WA February 10, 2010 – The Alliance for Education has selected Sara Morris as the next President and CEO of the organization. Morris, former Director of Marketing and Public Relations for OVP Venture Partners, will assume the role previously held by Patrick D’Amelio, on March 1, 2010.

“Sara has a passion for the issues and brings a diverse set of skills to the Alliance from the private and public sectors,” said Alliance Board Chair, George Griffin. “We considered many qualified candidates during the search for our organization’s new CEO, but Sara is well positioned to serve as a bridge between private donors and the school district. Equally important, she will continue our work in building a great relationship with Seattle Public Schools and the broader community. Sara is the right CEO to lead the strategies we have set in place to help every child in Seattle Public Schools achieve academic success.”

Morris spent 17 years in marketing and communications. She served as a communications aide in the Clinton administration, as Group Marketing Manager at Amazon.com, and Executive Director of Technet Northwest. As an independent consultant for Seattle Public Schools, Morris led large-scale, interdisciplinary projects that moved diverse groups of people toward common objectives. Morris also serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Technology Access Foundation and was named one of Seattle’s “40 under 40” by the Puget Sound Business Journal in 2003.

“Joining the Alliance for Education is an honor and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me,” said Morris. “I am thrilled to join the team because I’m convinced that through strong partnerships, ambitious goals, and a shared commitment to the children in our communities, we can transform lives.”

Morris was previously involved in work at Seattle Public Schools, serving as a strategic advisor to then Superintendent Raj Manhas, and Staff Director to a 14-member commission. Her work led to sweeping reform recommendations aimed at improving academic achievement and reaching fiscal sustainability throughout the system.

Sara will step into this role at a good time,” said Karen Tollenaar Demorest, Interim President and CEO. “We have spent the past three years designing the right approach to accomplishing the Alliance’s mission. In Sara, we have a leader who embodies the characteristics essential to continuing this work: a strong work ethic and an unyielding commitment to our students.”

Over the last three years, the Alliance raised more than \$20 million in private donations. In addition to raising funds, the Alliance focuses on expanding community engagement,

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increasing college access and improving teacher quality throughout the Seattle Public School District.

For more information, please contact:

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About the Alliance for Education

The Alliance for Education is an independent, non-profit organization that brings together members of the community who are dedicated to supporting effective academic programs for children in Seattle Public Schools.