

Date: September 21, 2009

Contacts: Paul Lingenfelter, President, (303-541-1605)
Charles Lenth, Vice President (303-541-1601)

Email: plingenfelter@sheeo.org; clenth@sheeo.org

Boulder, CO – State Higher Education Executive Officers endorse development of Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts

The national association of State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) applauds the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for their leadership in the development of a common set of college- and career-readiness standards in mathematics and English Language Arts. Released today as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI), a process led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states and territories, these standards define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in college entry-level courses and in preparing for today's demanding workforce.

This past summer SHEEO's Executive Committee strongly supported the development of common, coherent, rigorous expectations for high school graduation as essential to achieving the dual goals of increased educational attainment and economic vitality for the nation. In a letter to the Chief State School Officers and the National Governors' Association, SHEEO's leaders wrote, "Clear, common standards would help guide and motivate students to prepare for success, and they would help educators and policy makers monitor progress and improve the performance of our educational system."

SHEEO congratulates the NGA Center and CCSSO for significant progress in making these standards a reality and will continue to support the work necessary to move from the current draft standards through the process of state by state adoption and implementation.

The guiding principle behind the emerging CCSSI standards has been "fewer, clearer, higher." Evidence-based and internationally benchmarked, these standards take into consideration the need for all students to learn more in order to thrive in the 21st century. SHEEO recognizes that the CCSSI standards are a starting point; for effective implementation, these standards will ultimately need to be supported by a system of high quality assessments and rigorous K-12 curricula that prepare students more effectively for postsecondary education and work. This effort is an essential part of a national movement to increase higher levels of postsecondary participation and achievement.

NGA and CCSSO are providing a public feedback period, through October 21 of this year, for the draft release of the standards. SHEEO encourages those interested in the standards to provide feedback within this period at www.corestandards.org.

###

The State Higher Education Executive Officers, the national association of the chief executives of statewide governing boards and coordinating boards of postsecondary education, works to assist its members and the states in developing and sustaining excellent systems of higher education.

--END--