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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The George Washington University to House the Center on Education Policy**

### **Maria Ferguson to Lead Center in GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development**

**WASHINGTON** – The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) has become the new home of the Center on Education Policy (CEP), an internationally renowned source of information to guide educational improvement. The center will reinforce the school's commitment to linking research and teaching to educational policy and practice. Maria Voles Ferguson will lead the center as its executive director. She has extensive experience in all facets of education policy, research, practice and strategic planning and will join GW on June 4, 2012.

"After an extensive national search, Maria was selected based on her outstanding work toward advancing knowledge to shape continuous education improvement at all levels," said GSEHD Dean Michael J. Feuer. "Maria has deep and wide understanding of education policy and the vital role that CEP plays in the national conversation. Her experience will be key to moving CEP along its path of providing credible and objective information for education policymakers and the general public. I look forward to working with Maria and the center on our ongoing mission to inform policy makers, educators, and the general public about best practices for improving schools."

CEP was founded in 1995 by Jack Jennings, a leading educational statesman and advocate for an evidence-informed approach to school improvement, and has become a major resource for data and analyses pertinent to decision making at all levels. To achieve its mission, CEP produces publications, convenes meetings, gives presentations and provides expert advice.

Ms. Ferguson joins CEP from the Alliance for Excellent Education, a nonprofit policy and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C., where she served as vice president for policy. Before joining the alliance, Ms. Ferguson served as director of the National School Boards Foundation, working in conjunction with the National School Boards Association to strengthen and support school board leadership in local communities. She was previously appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as the director of communication and outreach services for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"The Center on Education Policy and GSEHD are coming together at a watershed moment in public education," said Ms. Ferguson. "The CEP's longstanding reputation as a trusted source for relevant and useful research and analysis will be greatly enhanced by the many resources that exist within GSEHD. I look forward to working together so we can all engage more deeply in the important conversations that are driving education research and policy."

The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development is dedicated to the mission of *Leading Innovation through Learning* and proud of its renowned faculty, dedicated staff, robust partnerships and successful alumni. GSEHD students emerge from our programs enriched in theory and practice and become agents of change in education and human services.

**To learn more about GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development, visit <http://gsehd.gwu.edu>.**

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