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WCET Appoints Ellen Wagner as New Executive Director

Boulder, Colorado, November 9, 2009 – WCET announced today the appointment of Ellen Wagner, an internationally renowned expert in learning technologies, as the organization's new executive director. A membership organization focused on promoting the innovative use of technology to improve educational access and excellence, WCET chose Wagner based on the breadth of her knowledge of educational technologies, her experience with technology companies and commercial partners, and her understanding of state and federal policy as it relates to learning and technology. Wagner, who replaces the organization's exiting executive director, Louis Fox, begins her duties with WCET today.

"WCET is thrilled that Ellen Wagner will serve as our executive director," says Patricia Cuocco, chair of the WCET Executive Council and senior director for technology, advice, and policy for the California State University Office of the Chancellor. "Her leadership will complement the strengths of the current WCET team, help the organization to execute its current goals, formulate a sustainable vision for the future, and fulfill that vision. The institutions and industry relationships that Wagner has formed in her career will bring internationally-recognized expertise and perspective to WCET that will benefit our members, our partners, our sponsors, and the organization itself."

Over her 25-year career, Wagner has built a strong reputation in learning-technology circles. A former Colorado educator, she served as a tenured professor and administrator at the University of Northern Colorado for 11 years. For the past 15 years, she has held executive positions with companies such as Macromedia and Adobe Systems, managing their worldwide higher education and e-learning business and developing learning strategies and business solutions. She is currently the principal analyst for Sage Road Solutions, a consulting organization that specializes in providing market development and solutions marketing services. In her continuing role with that company, Wagner will bring additional expertise from Sage Roads to help WCET shape its future.

Wagner has been involved in WCET in various roles since its earliest days. She was honored as the recipient of the 2008 Richard Jonsen Award, the organization's highest honor, and also served a 15-month engagement as a visiting scholar.



“WCET has been an important part of my own professional development since its inception. It’s an honor to join the organization in a leadership capacity,” says Wagner. “WCET is well-positioned for leadership at a time when educational institutions worldwide are recognizing the great potential educational technology has for delivering learning, particularly during challenging budget periods. I look forward to working with our members, the outstanding team at WCET, and existing and new partners. Together, we will further WCET’s efforts to improve instruction and student learning and increase access to higher education.”

About WCET

WCET (www.wcet.info) is a membership cooperative of institutions and organizations dedicated to advancing access and excellence in higher education through the innovative use of technology. Celebrating its 21st anniversary this year, WCET has members in 46 states and six countries. WCET (formerly the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications) is a unit of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and its 15 member states work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life. Our programs – Student Exchange, WCET, Policy Analysis and Research, and Mental Health – are working to find answers to some of the most critical questions facing higher education today.

About Sage Road Solutions

Sage Road Solutions (www.sageroadsolutions.com) is an independent management consulting company with a passion for the business of learning, education, and training technologies. Sage Road Solutions helps innovative companies, forward-thinking businesses, and educational organizations maximize their success in today’s learning technologies marketplace.

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