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WILLIAMS NAMED NEW CHAIR OF CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

At the August meeting of the Charter School Commission, the Commission unanimously approved Vice Chair, Cindi Williams to succeed Steve Sundquist as Chairman of the Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission). Commissioner Sundquist has served as Chair since the Commission's inception five years ago. As a strong advocate for high quality charter schools, he has led the organization through the development of the charter applications, the approval of 12 charter schools and a rigorous process to measure and support their success. The Commission is grateful for his extraordinary leadership and delighted that he will be continuing his service as an at-large member of the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Williams has been a member of the Executive Committee for the past four years, and her knowledge of the Commission and its work since its formation is critical for future direction. As the mom of a student with special needs, she brings a unique lens to the Commission's deliberations. For two decades, she has served in leadership at both the state and federal level -- including in the White House, US Department of Education and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation -- advocating for policies and practice that reduce inequities in our public education system. Williams noted, "I am so proud of the work our school leaders, teachers, and students do every day. Charter schools have the autonomy to innovate, personalize and develop by design a culture of high expectations for each and every one of their students. It is our role to ensure that they have the structure and oversight they need to thrive. I am grateful to Commissioner Sundquist for his exceptional leadership and for the strong path forward he has set for the Commission."

In addition to her service on the Commission, Williams serves on a number of volunteer boards and is a Principal at HCM Strategists. She and her husband have two sons.

About Washington State’s Charter School Commission

Washington State’s Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington’s charter school law.

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