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Higher Education Expert Lenth Re-elected to Smarter Balanced Executive Committee

OLYMPIA, Wash. – January 14, 2013 – The Higher Education State Leads of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) re-elected Charles Lenth, Ph.D., to the Consortium's Executive Committee. Lenth is vice president for Policy Analysis and Academic Affairs at the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO).

As one of two higher education representatives on the nine-member board, Lenth helps oversee the development of the assessment system in collaboration with Smarter Balanced staff, work groups, and advisors. Beverly L. Young, Ph.D., assistant vice chancellor of Academic Affairs for the California State University System, is the other higher education representative. Lenth joined the Executive Committee in January 2011; his second term runs through September 30, 2014.

"The next 18 months will bring even closer collaboration between K-12 and higher education in member states as we move toward the implementation of the assessment system in the 2014-15 school year," said Joseph Martineau, Ph.D., Executive Committee co-chair of Smarter Balanced. "We are thrilled that Charlie will continue to lend his knowledge and expertise on higher education policy to our work."

Lenth brings to the Smarter Balanced Executive Committee substantial experience across several areas of higher education policy, including finance and governance as well as many aspects of academic policy. He has been interested and involved in the roles of assessment in education since the 1980s, and since 2010 has been National Project Manager and a member of the Group of National Experts for OECD's Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO) Feasibility Study, which will conclude in 2013.

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About Smarter Balanced

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium brings together states to create a common, innovative assessment system for mathematics and English language arts/literacy that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and helps prepare students for college and careers. The Consortium involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent and consensus-driven process to help all students thrive in a knowledge-driven global economy. The Consortium's projects are funded through a four-year, \$175 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, comprising 99 percent of activity resources, with the remaining support provided through generous contributions of charitable foundations. Membership is open to any interested U.S. state. For more information, please visit www.smarterbalanced.org.