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SEA Announces Task Force on Assessing Management Quality

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Senior Executives Association (SEA) – the professional association responsible for representing, convening, and cultivating members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and senior career leaders across the federal government – released the following statement announcing a Task Force on Assessing Management Quality in the federal government.

Karl Schneider, chair of SEA’s board of directors, says: “SEA is proud to announce, in partnership with the IBM Center for the Business of Government and the University of Illinois, Chicago and with participation from a variety of government and industry stakeholders, the formation of a specialized task force as the second step for the SEA Project on Assessing Management Quality.”

“Now more than ever, as our nation battles a public health crisis, we see the importance of a well-managed federal workforce to deliver critical services to the American people. And while our federal government is comprised of millions of dedicated civil servants, outdated systems and a lack of quality data inhibit our government’s ability to ensure that our federal leaders can best serve the American people,” Schneider continued.

The creation of this task force marks the beginning of the second phase of the Project on Assessing Management Quality. The project contains three phases: (1) a workshop and subsequent report on measuring management quality, completed in May; (2) a task force to develop management assessment models; and (3) an implementation plan for utilizing the management assessment models with government agencies.

Jason Briefel, SEA executive director, notes: “Too often, agencies manage by reacting to crises rather than preparing for them, leaving agencies scrambling to resolve organizational shortcomings at the times when resources are most strained. This task force will develop a means of assessing how well agencies are managed and how well positioned they are to meet future challenges.”

James R. Thompson, associate professor of public administration at the University of Illinois, Chicago and co-author of the report, observes: “Our nation needs federal managers who are equipped with the training, tools, and guidance to be successful in their missions to support the American people.”

This report shows the federal government has little clarity on what management systems and practices produce the most success within agencies and which inhibit mission delivery.

Thompson says: “It is our hope that this task force can bring together the minds of our nation’s most thoughtful government leaders to shed light onto this blind spot within government research. With the tools to determine what does and does not work within agencies, we can begin replicating best practices to improve the functioning of government and save taxpayer funds,”

A copy of the report, “Measuring the Quality of Management in Federal Agencies” can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/report/measuring-quality-management-federal-agencies>.

The inaugural members of the task force include the following individuals, who bring with them decades of public and private sector experience.

- **Task Force Chair: Dr. Noha Gaber** is an experienced career civil servant whose Federal career has included leadership positions at the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Architect of the Capitol, where she currently serves as the Director of Performance, Strategy and Innovation. Over the span of her career she has focused on driving

collaboration and strengthening organizational excellence and high performance. She strategically planned and led successful initiatives and programs that have resulted in improved organizational performance and workforce engagement. Dr. Gaber is active in the inter-agency space, including as member of the White House Advisory Group on Reform of the Senior Executive Service and co-lead of GovConnect, a government-wide initiative under President Obama's Second Term Management. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Federal Improvement Team and on the Advisory Panel for Young Government Leaders. Dr. Gaber received her bachelor's and doctoral degrees in Environmental Engineering from the University of Southampton in England and also holds a Certificate in Knowledge Management.

- **Beth Angerman** is a Client Service Partner at Slalom Consulting. She formerly served as an executive at General Services Administration and Department of the Treasury, leading government-wide policy and strategy for administrative functions across government. She was instrumental in the development of the new shared service strategy, the creation of GSA's reform plan, and has a deep understanding of governmentwide financial reporting and regulations.
- **Nani A. Coloretti** is the senior vice president for financial and business strategy at the Urban Institute. She has over 20 years of experience in state, local and federal government finance and program management, helping organizations achieve improved outcomes and results. She served the Obama administration for almost eight years, most recently as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Her prior work includes directing the budget for the City and County of San Francisco, stints working on the State of Hawaii budget and the federal budget, and she has worked in several programmatic areas, including health care, early care and education, consumer finance and housing.
- **Robert Goldenkoff** recently retired from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) after more than 30 years of federal service. Most recently, he was a Director on GAO's Strategic Issues team where he conceptualized and led large, complex, and often highly sensitive studies aimed at making federal agencies more efficient, effective, and results-oriented. His organizational transformation efforts have led to hundreds of millions of dollars in financial savings to taxpayers, and dozens of operational improvements. He routinely testified before Congress, and represented GAO to the print and broadcast media. He received his B.A. (political science) and Master of Public Administration degrees from the George Washington University, and was a Presidential Management Fellow.
- **Emily Kornegay** is a career senior executive at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), leading their budget office as well as strategic planning and performance efforts. Prior to joining HUD in 2017 she spent over four years at the Treasury Department and nine years at the Office of Management and Budget, working on budget, performance, and financial management. Ms. Kornegay holds a BA in government from Dartmouth College, a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas, and lives in Bethesda, MD with her husband and twin daughters.
- **Jim Williams** is a partner with Schambach & Williams Consulting. He is a long-time former career federal senior executive, having served as the acting administrator of the General Services Administration, the commissioner of GSA's Federal Acquisition Service, and a senior executive project leader at the Department of Homeland Security, the Internal Revenue Service, and the General Services Administration. His accomplishments were twice recognized with a Presidential Rank Award. He received his MBA from George Washington University and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

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The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career Federal leaders. Founded in 1980, SEA's goals are to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of the Federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career Federal leaders; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions.

For more information, visit www.seniorexecs.org.