PRESS RELEASE
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Kate Kinder Named Executive Director of The National Council of Workforce Education

January 31, 2024: The National Council of Workforce Education (NCWE) Board of Directors is delighted to announce the appointment of Kate Kinder as the organization’s new Executive Director. This appointment will be effective March 15.

Kinder’s background as a community college and workforce development leader, her ability to bring together diverse stakeholders, combined with a deep passion in the power of community colleges to deliver impactful workforce education programming to transform lives will help to further advance the mission of the organization.

“We are thrilled to welcome Kate as our new Executive Director,” says Ken Warden, NCWE Board President. “She brings extensive experience in building coalitions, advocacy for higher education, and vast knowledge of workforce development policy expertise to our organization. With Kate’s leadership, our organization will continue our progress to support our member colleges to both maximize the value of community colleges as economic engines in their communities and develop effective partnerships that deepen our impact.”

The Board identified expanding innovative workforce education and industry partnerships across the network, building membership, and the ability to collaborate to provide value to our member colleges as essential skills for NCWE’s next Executive Director. Kinder’s ability to build and mobilize stakeholders led to a statewide community college SNAP 50/50 consortium, a coalition addressing basic needs insecurity, and the passage of Oregon’s landmark Benefit Navigator Bill that funds benefit navigators at all public community colleges and universities. More recently, she developed and implemented innovative postsecondary technical assistant and peer learning models across multiple states, systems, and institutions. Her history of collaboration and telling the story of how community colleges create opportunity in their communities will be of great benefit to the NCWE membership.

“I look forward to working with Kate as the new Executive Director at NCWE, a critical affiliate council that prioritizes workforce development and industry relevance to advance the programs and support needed for workforce faculty and students,” said Jen Worth, Senior Vice President, Academic and Workforce Development, American Association of Community Colleges.

When Kinder assumes the role, she will manage all day-to-day operations for leading the largest community college workforce organization known for its annual community college workforce conference, innovation through policy and practice, and its program of professional development for new community college workforce professionals.
“I’m thrilled to be serving as NCWE’s next Executive Director. Throughout my career, NCWE has fostered dynamic peer learning, illustrated the power of partnerships, and been a source for innovative ideas that benefitted my institution and students. I’m excited to carry forward this legacy, to elevate the important role of community colleges and the positive impact that quality workforce education has on communities, families, learners, and industry,” said Kate Kinder.

While at National Skills Coalition (NSC), Kinder led efforts to develop broad-based coalitions across multiple states to advocate for higher education human service and workforce development policies that advance an inclusive economy. Prior to her work with NSC, she held progressive community college leadership roles at Portland Community College.

Kinder’s selection follows the announcement last year of the retirement of Dr. Darlene Miller. Dr. Miller led the organization for nearly two decades. During her time, Dr. Miller, built the membership, and is responsible for much to elevate NCWE’s reputation as an advocate for equitable workforce programming and as the resource for policies and systems impacting community college workforce programs. She was also a key influencer for helping NCWE provide professional development to emerging community college workforce leaders through the NCWE New Workforce Professional Academy.

About NCWE:
The National Council for Workforce Education is an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges representing community college workforce programs across all 50 states and U.S. territories. NCWE provides a national platform that equips practitioners and leaders to deliver equity-conscious and impactful workforce education programs.