

October 21, 2009



**For Immediate Release:**

**Nevada Public Education Foundation Adopts Visionary  
Shared Leadership Model**

*New executives appointed in Southern and Northern Nevada*

(Reno, NV) The Nevada Public Education Foundation has appointed Chanda Cook as Director, Southern Nevada Region and Kari Earle as Director, Northern Nevada Region. This innovative executive leadership structure will position NPEF to expand its sphere of influence statewide, while also ensuring responsiveness to local community needs with a consistent regional presence.

“This new leadership structure will facilitate continued expansion of our critical work statewide maximizing existing strengths while adding new talent, expertise and experience,” said Laura Granier, Nevada Public Education Foundation, board of trustees, chairperson. “Chanda and Kari’s expertise and experience complement each other well. We interviewed a large pool of extremely qualified candidates and carefully evaluated our options before concluding, as a board, this leadership structure would optimize our ability to take NPEF to the next level.”

Kari Earle is based in Reno, where she has lived and worked for more than 19 years. Earle is a leader in providing intensive technical assistance to State and local jurisdictions across the nation to support collaborative systems change in the areas of policy and practice so that better outcomes for children, families, and communities can be achieved. She has 23 years of clinical, management and consulting experience in both the public and private sector. She served as program director for the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare since 2006. Prior to that, Earle provided consulting services locally and nationally on a broad range of health and human service issues. Earle is the former CEO of STEP 2, a Reno area non-profit organization serving low-income families, and is well versed in the array of issues facing communities throughout Nevada.

A native Las Vegas still based in southern Nevada, Chanda Cook has worked with the Nevada Public Education Foundation since 2000 and continues to play a lead role in the foundation’s Ready for Life movement. An expert on education matters, Cook has been directly involved in the creation of education policy on the local, state and national level.

**(MORE)**

Prior to joining NPEF, Cook spent more than a decade in a corporate community relations role with Nevada Power, where she served as a liaison to the education and non-profit communities. Cook was appointed by former Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn as the parent representative to the Nevada Commission on Educational Excellence, tasked with overseeing the distribution of more than \$100 million in innovative and remediation grant funds. In 2003, Cook was inducted into the Clark County School District Excellence in Education Hall of Fame.

### **About Nevada Public Education Foundation**

NPEF has been nationally recognized for its groundbreaking “Ready for Life” movement, which leverages resources and partnerships to improve key indicators related to graduation rates, employment, and economic stability. Established in 1991, the organization convenes and connects local, regional and statewide organizations to maximize resources and impact; seeks to consistently measure and improve programs and services; and organizes public and private support to sustain the work and ensure that young people receive the education and resources they need to become productive, contributing members of society.

For more information on Nevada Public Education Foundation, call 702-486-6492 in Southern Nevada, 775-687-9203 in Northern Nevada, or visit <http://www.readyforlifenv.org>