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David Temple Named Senior Research Scholar at the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement

The National Center for Science and Civic Engagement is delighted to announce the appointment of David L. Temple as a senior research scholar. A leader in improving education at every level, David will direct his work as a senior research scholar to helping the National Center and SENCER design and focus new efforts to develop the human resource support and the STEM skills and access of students who are compellingly underrepresented in the STEM professoriate and industry.

David Burns, executive director of NCSCE and principal director of SENCER notes that, “We are fortunate to have David’s knowledge and experience to help us to think strategically about how SENCER can help achieve critical national goals in education and workforce development.”

David has had a distinguished career marked with significant contributions to workforce development and education. He earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in special education from the University of Virginia. He serves on the board of the University’s Walter Ridley Scholarship Fund, whose mission is to ensure that UVA’s African American students who excel academically will have access to essential financial support.

He has served at the Commerce Department as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations at the Economic Development Administration, and earlier as Senior Advisor directing its Office of Welfare-to-Work Initiative. He was appointed in 1986 to serve his cabinet as the state’s Deputy Secretary of Education. In 2005, he accepted Governor Mark Warner’s appointment to Virginia’s P-16 Education Council, an umbrella commission that seeks to bridge and coordinate policies and transitions between pre kindergarten, elementary and secondary, community college and higher education institutional programs and policies. David served for ten years as a Fairfax County, Virginia public school principal, and as a teacher of students with special educational needs, including the creation of that region’s first high school-aged, non-categorical vocational training program for disabled students. He accepted two cabinet posts from then Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, including Director, Mayor’s Youth Initiatives Office. David has served on several state boards including a Charter director to the Board of Juvenile, and serving for many years as its Vice Chair. Much earlier, then Governor Chuck Robb appointed him to the state’s Board of Corrections (adult).

He is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal for superior contributions to workforce development, as well as the Vice President’s Hammer Award for outstanding leadership and contributions in government reinvention. He was awarded the Jeannie P. Baliles Award for leadership in developing the statewide Virginia Literacy (adult) Initiative. He is a recipient of the Northern Virginia Urban League’s E. L. Patterson Education Award. In 2000, was also certified into the career Federal Senior Executive Service (SES) by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

David most recently served as a program director at the National Science Foundation in the Education and Human Resources Directorate. There, he directed the Model Institutions for Excellence, an 11-year NSF-NASA partnership that has succeeded in developing replicable six national models in the recruitment, retention, graduation of underrepresented minorities in higher education science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce. Additionally, he directed the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering

Mentoring, a program that recognizes STEM-faculty, teachers, scientists and others who have demonstrated sustained and successful mentoring of underrepresented K-20 minority students to the professoriate ranks or the STEM industry or workforce.

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