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NEWS

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Bonnie J. Gordon Joins MDC to Work on National Education Initiative

Chapel Hill, NC - MDC has hired veteran higher education administrator Bonnie J. Gordon to lead its policy and communications work on the *Achieving the Dream* initiative, a multiyear national initiative to help more community college students succeed. Gordon joins MDC as senior staff associate and has extensive experience in both higher education and communications.

“Bonnie brings vision, passion and experience to her new role in helping MDC manage the Achieving the Dream initiative,” said MDC President David Dodson. “Her work with numerous state and national education associations is indicative of her strong commitment to improving educational outcomes for post secondary students.”

Before joining MDC, Gordon was the College Prep program officer at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, New England’s largest education philanthropy. In her work at Nellie Mae, she designed a multi-year grant program for college-school partnerships to improve academic achievement for underserved students and helped lead the development of the College Ready New England P-16 Alliance, a regional policy and program collaboration in support of college access and success for underserved students. She also negotiated and directed the Foundation’s funding partnership with Lumina Foundation for Education to bring three Connecticut community colleges into *Achieving the Dream*.

A 20-year veteran of higher education administration, Gordon served in a number of positions at Ithaca College, including executive assistant to the president, director of international programs, and vice president for college relations and resource development. She also was principal staff liaison to Ithaca’s board of

trustees and a member of the board's task forces on by-law revision, shared governance, and planning.

Gordon has extensive experience with state and national education associations, including the National Council of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the American Council on Education (ACE). She has served as a member of the ACE Commission on Adult Learning and Education Credentials, the Board of Visitors of Air University (United States Air Force), and as a program evaluator for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She also has served on the national Pathways to College Network Executive Committee, the Massachusetts Think College Early Committee, and the Massachusetts State GEAR UP Advisory Committee.

She has provided independent consulting services to both corporate and non-profit clients for policy analysis and program support in education, management, human resources, marketing, public relations, and fundraising. She is currently a member of the board of directors of Fenway High School in Boston, MA.

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About MDC: *MDC is a private, nonpartisan nonprofit headquartered in Chapel Hill, NC. Founded in 1967 to identify and help remove barriers to progress for the South, MDC has been publishing research and developing policies and programs focused on expanding opportunity, reducing poverty and building inclusive civic cultures in the American South for the past 39 years. We build the capacity of institutions and communities to work for more just and equitable conditions now and into the future. MDC's mission is to provide communities and their leaders with the research, strategies, and assistance they need to advance equity and opportunity. www.mdcinc.org*

