



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2016

Sana Efird named Deputy Commissioner

JUNEAU – Sana Efird has been named Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson announced today. Ms. Efird will begin her duties on Dec. 1.

Ms. Efird has served as Assistant Commissioner for Finance and Management Services at the Department of Health and Social Services, where her duties included the budget, human resources, information technology, grants and contracts, public information, and facilities. Previously, in Asheville, N.C., she was executive director of a community college foundation, director of development for a private school, and a teacher and staff development trainer in public schools.

Ms. Efird holds a bachelor of arts degree in education from the University of South Carolina and a master of arts degree in philanthropy and development from Saint Mary's University in Minnesota.

“Deputy Commissioner Efird has a heart for students,” said Commissioner Johnson. “Her ability to serve the most vulnerable has been clearly demonstrated in her role as Assistant Commissioner at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. She has experience leading change while also insisting on excellence. I look forward to working closely with Deputy Commissioner Efird to support Alaska’s educators and families as they provide an excellent education for every student every day.”

At DEED, Efird will oversee 225 employees and an operating budget of \$273 million. The department includes divisions that support K-12 public schools, Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, the Alaska Council on the Arts, the Alaska State Archives, the Alaska State Museums, the Alaska State Library, and the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

“I am excited and honored for the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Michael Johnson and the staff at DEED to improve education outcomes for all Alaskan students,” Ms. Efird said. “Over the next months, I look forward to listening and learning about all the positive initiatives happening in education and to hear ideas on how we can work together to support our most valuable resource, our children.”

Ms. Efird replaces Betty Walters, who has served as Interim Deputy Commissioner since March, following the retirement of Les Morse.

“A special thank you to Betty Walters for serving as Interim Deputy Commissioner,” Commissioner Johnson said. “Betty has over 50 years invested in Alaska’s students. Betty has provided excellent leadership and support during this time of transition. She leaves with our appreciation and will continue to be an important part of providing an excellent education to all of Alaska’s students.”

###