

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jon Reinish – 202 999 0461

jreinish@skdknick.com

JACLYN LEFFEL NAMED DIRECTOR OF NYC COLLABORATES

DOE Veteran to Build Bridges between NYC District and Charter Schools

Organization Launched in 2012 Emphasizes Collaboration and Sharing Best Practices across School Types

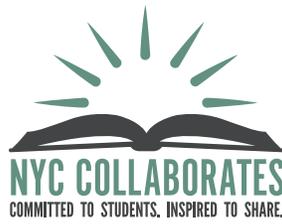
New York, NY (August 15, 2013) – *NYC Collaborates*, an initiative of New York City’s District-Charter Compact, today announced the appointment of Jaclyn Leffel as Director. Leffel, previously Deputy Chief Portfolio Officer at NYC Department of Education, begins her new position on August 19, 2013.

In her new capacity, Leffel will guide *NYC Collaborates* through its mission to encourage public conversation and on-the-ground partnerships between district and charter schools. The organization, which works in cooperation with the NYC Department of Education and the New York City Charter School Center, creates opportunities for educators - from across the five boroughs and across school types - to share best practices and scale techniques that promote educational excellence.

NYC Collaborates hosts School Study Tours, which encourage district and charter professional development, as well as Education Policy Dialogues, which bring together educators and the general public to hear from leading voices in education policy. NYC Collaborates also coordinates a Collaboration Council, comprised of district and charter school leaders, that serves as a public voice committed to being transparent about students’ and schools’ needs in order to develop a high quality education system.

“More and more public schools are finding productive ways to work together, I look forward to showcasing these collaborations and creating even more opportunities to build bridges throughout the public school system,” said **Jaclyn Leffel**. “NYC Collaborates will work to connect educators across schools, engage school leaders in policy discussions and provide forums for best practice sharing.”

Leffel has spent the last four years working at the New York City Department of Education. While at the DOE, she served in various roles, most recently as Deputy Chief



Portfolio Officer in the Office of Portfolio Management. In that role, she worked with both district and charter schools to create policies that support the longevity of school

success, assessed community needs by working with local principals and community members on the creation of new schools and met with local communities to revise and update the assessment of community educational priorities.

“Jaclyn’s impressive track record of facilitating meaningful dialogue and driving innovative projects between charter and district schools positions her to take NYC Collaborates to its next phase of growth,” said **James Merriman**, CEO of the New York City Charter School Center, which supports NYC Collaborates in partnership with DOE.

Prior to the DOE, Leffel spent many years in education reform and higher education. She contributed to opening new schools in underprivileged communities and turning around low performing schools in cities across the country. Prior to her reform work, she worked at the Chronicle of Higher Education, the No. 1 source of news, information, and jobs for college and university faculty members and administrators.

###

About NYC Collaborates

NYC Collaborates creates opportunities for educators from all types of public schools to come together to share information and collaborate to improve student achievement.

NYC Collaborates members believe that public schools—whether district or charter—have a collective and mutual obligation to ensure that all students in the City graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college, work and life.

Spearheaded by the New York City Charter School Center and New York City’s Department of Education, NYC Collaborates is funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To learn more, visit: <http://nyccollaborates.org>.