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### **Jill Cook Elected Chair of the Learning First Alliance Board of Directors**

ALEXANDRIA, VA. – The Learning First Alliance (LFA), a coalition of leading education associations representing more than 10 million parents, educators and policymakers, has elected Jill Cook, executive director of the American School Counselor Association, to chair its Board of Directors for the 2023–2024 term.

“In this critically important period for public education, the organizations that make up the Learning First Alliance know we must communicate openly and collaborate to support our nation’s students and the educators we serve,” Cook said. “It is an honor to help lead this work and paramount that the school counselor perspective continue to be added to LFA’s voice.”

Cook, who has been ASCA’s executive director since October 2020, succeeds L. Earl Franks, executive director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, in the role.

“Jill Cook’s visionary and effective leadership in supporting America’s schools, coupled with her outgoing personality and highly effective communication skills, will benefit the LFA organization tremendously,” Franks said.

Cook has more than 30 years of experience in K–12 education, including more than 20 years of service at ASCA. She helped create the ASCA School Counselor of the Year Program and created, developed and expanded the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP), which has honored more than 1,000 schools across the U.S. for

exemplary school counseling programs. A former middle school counselor, she also worked as an assistant principal at the elementary and middle school level.

Richard M. Long, LFA's executive director, said Cook's role will be to "further expand and enhance support for public education by emphasizing the alliance's shared goals, commitment to addressing challenges, and active engagement with the public to solve those challenges."

**About the American School Counselor Association:** The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional learning to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA has a network of 50 state and territory associations and a membership of approximately 43,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information about ASCA, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).

**About the Learning First Alliance:** The Learning First Alliance is a partnership of leading education organizations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. Alliance members include: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; AASA: The School Superintendents Association; American Federation of Teachers; American School Counselor Association; Consortium for School Networking; Learning Forward; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Education Association; National PTA; National School Boards Association, National School Public Relations Association, and PDK International.