



April 18, 2018

DR. KIM HUNTER REED NAMED COMMISSIONER APPOINTEE

Baton Rouge, LA - The Louisiana Board of Regents unanimously selected Dr. Kim Hunter Reed as the ninth Commissioner of Higher Education today.

"This was a difficult decision for the board as we had three worthy candidates for the position," said Board Chair Robert W. Levy. "We believe that Dr. Kim Hunter Reed is uniquely positioned to lead Louisiana Higher Education into the future and is poised to face the challenges that lie ahead."

After two days of interviews with the board, staff, stakeholders, business leaders and heads of the LSU, Southern University, University of Louisiana, and Louisiana Community and Technical College systems, the finalists gave public statements today, sharing their backgrounds and expressing their interest in the commissioner position.

During a press announcement Wednesday afternoon, Governor John Bel Edwards commented to Reed, "We are looking forward to your leadership and know that you bring a lot of experience both at the U.S. Department of Education and most recently as the Director of Higher Education for the state of Colorado, but you've got deep roots here in Louisiana. So, I believe it's the perfect fit. We are excited to have you and I look forward to working with you."

Reed replied, "This is a wonderful opportunity. It's critical that we talk about the importance of making sure more people have access to good education and training, that our funding is stable, that our vision is big and bright, that we align workforce and that we are doing all we can to ensure there is more opportunity. So, I look forward to this work."

As Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education, Reed will provide coordinating, collaborative leadership with the presidents of Louisiana's four systems of public post-secondary education. She will lead Regents' efforts of statewide academic planning and review, budgeting and performance funding, research, and accountability.

Reed currently serves as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, assuming the role on February 15, 2017. Working with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, she leads efforts to drive increased educational attainment and erase equity gaps as identified in the statewide strategic plan for higher education, *Colorado Rises*.

Reed previously served in President Barack Obama's administration as Deputy Undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Education, leading post-secondary diversity and inclusion work, supporting strong student and outcomes-focused policies and aggressive national outreach efforts. She also led the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

A Lake Charles native, Reed chaired the State's higher education transition team in 2015 and has served as Louisiana's state policy director. Earlier, Reed worked at the Louisiana Board of Regents as chief of staff and deputy commissioner for public affairs.

Reed received a doctorate in public policy from Southern University, a master's of public administration and a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Louisiana State University.

It is anticipated that Reed will assume the position in July, following the retirement of current Commissioner, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo.

