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**DC PREP ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, RICK CRUZ**

WASHINGTON, DC – August 10, 2012 – After a rigorous nationwide search, DC Prep – the highest-performing charter network in Washington – today named Rick Cruz as its incoming Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Cruz comes to DC Prep as a seasoned and accomplished leader with experience in education reform and a successful 17 year management career in the non-profit and for-profit sectors. After 12 years at the Corporate Executive Board in DC, Cruz joined Teach For America as a Vice President for Operations, overseeing Executive Directors in eight cities across the country, including Washington. Most recently he has served as the Chief Field Officer at the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, managing the work of 11 Executive Directors in sites around the country.

“On behalf of DC Prep’s Board of Directors, I am delighted to have Rick join the organization,” said Le Roy (Terry) Eakin III, DC Prep’s Board Chair. “His deep background in management, his experience in scaling organizations, and his belief in DC Prep’s mission, make him superbly qualified to lead DC Prep to even greater heights in the years ahead.”

Cruz will join DC Prep in late September, where he will work alongside DC Prep’s Founder and current CEO, Emily Lawson, in a year-long transition into the organization. Lawson, who founded DC Prep in 2002 and oversaw its growth from a single campus to the top network of charter schools citywide, will remain at DC Prep through the end of 2012 serving as the Founder. Starting in 2013 she will assist as a consultant and an active member of DC Prep’s Board of Directors.

“I am thrilled that someone with Rick’s level of expertise, vision, business acumen, and deep commitment to educational opportunity will be guiding DC Prep’s growth in the future,” said Lawson. “This is truly an exciting new chapter for DC Prep.”

“I am honored to join the DC Prep community and to have the opportunity to lead this team in closing the achievement gap in Washington, a city that has been my home for the past 17 years,” said Cruz. “As a public school student from the Bronx and the first college graduate in my family, I know personally the impact that quality education can have on shaping lives, and I am committed to DC Prep’s mission and to ensuring that thousands more children in our city receive an excellent education that leads to a bright future.”

News of the leadership transition comes on the heels of the 2012 DC CAS results, where DC Prep 3rd through 8th grade students shined. Edgewood Middle Campus is the highest-performing public charter school in Washington on the DC CAS general assessment. Edgewood Elementary Campus is the highest-performing public elementary school east of Rock Creek Park. For more details, visit [the DC Prep website](#).

For a complete bio of Rick Cruz, click [here](#).

About DC Prep

DC Prep is a Charter Management Organization currently serving 1,100 students in preschool through 8th grade at three campuses in Wards 5 and 7 in our nation’s capital. Over the next decade, DC Prep will grow to 10 campuses enrolling 3,300 students, or 10% of the preschool, elementary, and middle school students in Wards 5, 7, and 8 – Washington’s most under-resourced communities.

DC Prep’s mission is to bridge the educational divide in Washington, DC by increasing the number of students from underserved communities with the academic preparation and personal character to succeed in competitive high schools and colleges.

For more information, visit DC Prep online at www.dcrep.org.

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