



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 3, 2007

CONTACT:
Edith Wooten, The NEA Foundation
(202) 822-7834, ewooten@nea.org

The NEA Foundation Names Pete Romero to Board ***Internationally Acclaimed Diplomat Is Board's Newest Member***

Washington, D.C. -- The NEA Foundation today announced the appointment of Ambassador Pete Romero to its Board of Directors. Ambassador Romero is the CEO of Experior Advisory, teaches at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and served 24 years as a career diplomat in the U.S. State Department, where he was named Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Bureau and became the highest-ranking career Hispanic officer in the history of the U.S. Department of State.

"As a highly respected diplomat, a business leader, a teacher, a widely quoted expert on international relations and a sought after advisor on international business, Ambassador Romero brings with him a world view and an unique understanding about what it takes to succeed in an increasingly competitive global society," said Harriet Sanford, President and CEO of the NEA Foundation. "His insights and contacts will help the NEA Foundation realize a critical component of our mission: to invest in public education that will prepare every American child to learn and thrive in a rapidly changing world."

She added that his appointment strengthens a board that has been reinvigorated recently with some of the nation's most well regarded business leaders and thinkers. "We have gone to great lengths to recruit members who are smart, connected and experts in their fields and whose vision and commitment to public education will help us create world-class teachers to nurture and inspire a new generation of learners.

Through its partnership with educators, the NEA Foundation advances student achievement through a variety of grants programs and awards to educators. Last year the NEA Foundation awarded more than 200 grants totaling more than \$2 million dollars.

As CEO of Experior Advisory, a consulting firm he started in 2003, Ambassador Romero provides business and political advice to numerous multinational companies and international groups. His client list runs the gamut from infrastructure to international banking. Sought after for his expertise in investment strategies, national reconciliation, and conflict resolution, he advises business leaders as well as Presidents and cabinet members of governments throughout the hemisphere.

"Through my work as a representative of the United States and a business advisor to multi-national companies, I have had the opportunity to study, live and work all over the world, and I have developed a deep understanding of and appreciation for education," Ambassador Romero said. "A solid education that instills lifelong learning skills is absolutely critical to the success of a nation and its people, and even more so as our economies and fates become increasingly interconnected and dynamic. I hope to bring to this board a global perspective that will help us provide our educators and students with the resources they need to reach their potential and to achieve their dreams."

Ambassador Romero's consulting practice—a combination of business, health care, and labor work— builds on his 24 years as a career diplomat, including U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador and Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in San

Salvador. He has received numerous awards from The State Department, including its highest recognition, the Distinguished Honor Award.

In addition to his extensive diplomatic background, and his teaching at Georgetown University, he serves on the boards of several for profit and non profit organizations, including Special Olympics International. Ambassador Romero is a founding member of the Hispanic Council on International Relations, is the 2001 recipient of the Roberto Clemente Award from Boricua College for distinguished public service and was honored by Florida State University as its Distinguished Graduate in 2006.

About The NEA Foundation

The NEA Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization created in 1969 by the members of the National Education Association and sustained by contributions from educators, corporate sponsors, and other supporters of public education. The Foundation offers grants and programs that support educators' efforts to close the achievement gaps, increase classroom innovations, salute excellence in education, and provide professional development. For more information, visit www.neafoundation.org.

The NEA Foundation's Board Members are: **Louis G. Lower II**, *Chair*, President & CEO, The Horace Mann Companies; **Lauri Fitz-Pegado**, *Vice-Chair*, Senior Counselor, The Livingston Group; **John I. Wilson**, *Secretary-Treasurer*, Executive Director, National Education Association; **R. Joseph Bower, CPA**; **Mark Howard Chichester**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute's Socrates Society; **Deborah A. Cowan**, Senior Vice President in Finance, Radio One, Inc.; **Therese Crane**, Senior Education Advisor, Infotech Strategies; **Christopher Gardner**, President & CEO, Gardner Rich & Company; **Lionel C. Johnson**, Senior Managing Director; GWI Consulting; **Nita Jones**, Representative, NEA Board of Directors; **Herb Levitt**, Representative, National Council of Urban Education Associations; **Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow**, President & CEO, The Oliver Group, Inc.; **Jessica Mendoza**, U.S. Olympian; **Larry Nelson**, Director of Global Citizenship, Sun Microsystems, Inc.; **Ambassador Pete Romero**, CEO, Exporior Advisory; **Harriet Sanford**, President & CEO, The NEA Foundation; **Steve Sidel**, President, Discovery Education; **Aaron Wallace**, Chief of Staff, Florida Education Association; **Reg Weaver**, President, National Education Association; **Kevin Welner**, Associate Professor, University of Colorado; **Jessie Woolley-Wilson**, President, K12, Blackboard, Inc.

#