



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**BATTELLE FOR KIDS ANNOUNCES GARZA AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO**

**Columbus, Ohio**—Battelle for Kids announced today that Karen K. Garza, Ph.D. will become the organization’s new President and CEO by January 1, 2017. Garza is the superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in Virginia—the 10th largest school division in the U.S., serving a diverse student population of more than 186,000 students.

“I am so excited about joining Battelle for Kids,” said Garza. “I have long appreciated and valued the wonderful support that this great organization provides schools, school systems and state education agencies. I thank the Board of Directors for their confidence, and I look forward to working with them and the outstanding professionals at Battelle for Kids to continue the mission of empowering and supporting educators to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students.”

As superintendent at FCPS, Dr. Garza led the development of the Portrait of a Graduate—a profile of the knowledge and skills that the community believes is important for graduates—and the center of the district’s strategic plan. A veteran educator, Garza has served in leadership roles, including superintendent of Lubbock Independent School District in Texas (2009–2013) and chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District in Texas, where she was responsible for the learning of more than 200,000 students across more than 300 schools.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Garza has chosen to lead this amazing organization, and we look forward to the significant impact her leadership will have in the future,” said Russ Austin, Battelle for Kids’ board chairman and senior vice president, general counsel and secretary of Battelle. “Attracting a person of Dr. Garza’s capabilities and experience will be a great benefit to Battelle for Kids, the school districts and states we serve, and Columbus, Ohio.”

Current Executive Director Jim Mahoney looks forward to serving in his new emeritus role—supporting Garza’s transition as well as speaking, writing and advocating for the importance of collaborative action around powerful practices in education, particularly in rural communities. “The board thanks Jim Mahoney for his remarkable leadership over the past 15 years,” said Austin. “Jim took Battelle for Kids from a vision to an organization that has positively impacted more than 6 million students and 400,000 educators across the country.”

**About Battelle for Kids**

Located in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle for Kids is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to moving education forward for students by supporting the educators who work with them every day. The organization provides innovative services, solutions and products that empower teachers, leaders and school systems to advance educational equity and opportunity for all students. Learn more at [www.BFK.org](http://www.BFK.org).