

Karen Cator Named President and CEO of Digital Promise

*Former Director of Educational Technology for the U.S. Department of Education joins national nonprofit dedicated to education innovation*

Washington, D.C. | [April 16, 2013] ­– Digital Promise, an independent, bipartisan nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education, is pleased to announce that Karen Cator has been named its President and Chief Executive Officer.

An educator with more than 30 years of public and private sector experience, Cator has devoted her career to advocating for technology and research as paths to improving teaching and learning with the goals of more fully engaging students, increasing high school graduation rates, and ensuring college and career readiness.

Cator was most recently the Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education. In that role, she headed federal initiatives aimed at bringing educators, policymakers, researchers and industry leaders together to foster digital learning innovations. She led the development of the country’s[National Education Technology Plan](http://www.ed.gov/technology/netp-2010%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

“The advancement of learning technologies can support students with a personalized education experience that readies them for college, the workforce, and the 21st Century, but only if all interested parties work smartly toward the same goals — equity of access, strong infrastructure, robust research and development,” Karen said. “At Digital Promise, I’ll work to to break down the barriers to innovation in education and support lifelong learners of all levels.”

Digital Promise is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008 and launched in late 2011 by President Obama. Since, it has worked to advance breakthrough technology in education through several initiatives, including fostering national research partnerships, arranging pilots of classroom tools for school districts, and creating solutions for the technology procurement process.

One of Digital Promise’s key initiatives is the[League of Innovative Schools](http://www.digitalpromise.org/initiatives/league-of-innovative-schools/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), which creates partnerships between a national coalition of leading schools, top research institutions, and leading technologists to harness innovation and drive better results for students. With her extensive experience in the private and public sectors, and her efforts to connect those sectors, Karen will bolster those key ongoing initiatives while also spurring new ones.

“By welcoming Karen, with her deep passion and understanding of the potential for education technology, Digital Promise will continue the important work supported by Congress, and capitalize on the momentum built by the existing team, former Executive Director Adam Frankel, and the organization’s longstanding advocates,” said Dr. Eamon M. Kelly, Chair of the Digital Promise Board of Directors.

Karen is the past chair of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and has served on several boards including the Software & Information Industry Association’s education division. She holds a Master’s degree in school administration from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Springfield College.

The public announcement will be made Tuesday morning at the [Arizona State University/GSV Advisors Education Innovation Summit](http://edinnovation.gsvadvisors.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) in Scottsdale, Arizona.

For interview requests or media inquires, contact [press@digitalpromise.org](https://mail.google.com/mail/mu/mp/541/?source=na&hl=en" \t "_blank).

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About Digital Promise

[Digital Promise](http://www.digitalpromise.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is an independent, bipartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to spur innovation in education. Through its work with educators, technologists, researchers, and leading thinkers, Digital Promise supports comprehensive research and development to benefit lifelong learners and provide Americans with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the global economy. One of its flagship initiatives, the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, is a national coalition of public school districts committed to digital innovation that delivers results for students. The League of Innovative Schools includes 46 school districts and education agencies in 25 states, collectively serving nearly 3 million students.