

EDITORIAL PROJECTS IN EDUCATION

6935 Arlington Road, Suite 100, Bethesda, MD 20814 • (301) 280-3100 • www.edweek.org

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Morales, Communications Director
amandamorales@epe.org / 212.725.7000 ext. 105

***Education Week* Editor-in-Chief and CEO Virginia B. Edwards To Step Down After Two Decades at the Helm of EPE**

Michele J. Givens Is Named President and CEO of Nonprofit Publisher

BETHESDA, MD. – June 16, 2016 – Virginia B. Edwards will step down as the longtime president of the nonprofit Editorial Projects in Education and the editor-in-chief of *Education Week* and edweek.org on July 31, the EPE Board of Trustees has announced.

She will be succeeded as president and CEO by Michele J. Givens, the publisher and general manager of EPE since 2001.

Edwards has been with EPE for 28 years, leading the establishment of *Education Week*'s digital presence, strengthening and diversifying the nonprofit media outlet's product mix and revenue sources, and guiding the newsroom's award-winning journalism on pre-K-12 issues. As the publisher and general manager of EPE, Givens has worked closely with Edwards for more than 15 years and has played a critical role in maintaining the fiscal strength of the organization as well as supporting the work of the editorial staff.

"Ginny has worked tirelessly and effectively to evolve *EdWeek* over the years from a print-only publication to a 24/7 digital news operation," EPE Board Chair Chris Curran said. "At a time when many news organizations have struggled to sustain their audiences, and even their businesses, *Education Week* is a success story."

"The EPE board is fortunate to have Michele ready to take over," Curran, a managing partner of Tyton Partners, an investment banking and strategy consulting firm, said. "Michele has closely partnered with Ginny in navigating EPE culturally, structurally, and fiscally through a period of great change, in part by developing and rolling out forward-facing editorial and business initiatives that position Editorial Projects in Education as a leader in the digital-conversion space."

Edwards added: "I'll pack my bags knowing that I leave behind a stellar team that is supremely capable of building on the editorial, business-development, and technological progress we've made over the past 20-plus years. I had the best partner I could ever have imagined in Michele Givens, and she is well-positioned to assert strong senior leadership and ensure a smooth transition."

Before joining EPE, Givens held positions with *Outside* magazine, Rodale Press, and McGraw-Hill. She has an M.B.A. from the University of New Mexico and an M.S. in the management of information technology from the University of Virginia.

“*Education Week* is a national treasure, and having a key role in its evolution has been both invigorating and incredibly rewarding,” Givens said. “I’m thrilled to have been given this new opportunity to serve and to work with colleagues to continue building on a foundation of excellence.”

Continuity of EPE leadership will be further assured by Givens’ strong partnership with the longtime senior editorial leadership of *Education Week* and edweek.org, including Executive Editor Gregory Chronister and Managing Editor Kathleen Kennedy Manzo, and a team of nationally respected journalists who continue to set the standard for coverage of pre-K-12 education.

EDWARDS’ TENURE AT EPE AND EDWEEK

Edwards has been the president of the nearly 100-person Editorial Projects in Education since 1997. She has been the editor of *Education Week* since 1989. The newspaper, published 37 times a year, is read by more than 100,000 subscribers and “pass-along” readers. The newspaper publishes three highly anticipated annual reports—*Quality Counts* (on state education policy), *Technology Counts* (on education technology), and *Leaders To Learn From* (on exemplary school district leadership)—and special reports on such topics as personalized learning, teacher professional development, and student-data privacy.

For the past 20 years, Edwards has also served as the editor of edweek.org, which reaches an audience of 1.6 million registered users. In addition, more than 270,000 people subscribe to the site’s daily newsletter, *EdWeek Update*, and more than 830,000 subscribe to at least one of EPE’s other six e-newsletters. Among its other offerings, edweek.org is home to the popular *Education Week Teacher* site and more than 50 news and opinion blogs. Edweek.org routinely hosts webinars and online chats, and houses the most comprehensive archive of education news to be found anywhere on the web.

Over the past several years, EPE has also focused on building robust communities on edweek.org that encourage educators and policymakers to share, connect, and collaborate online. *Education Week*’s main Twitter handle (@educationweek) has more than 500,000 followers alone. Across all handles, EPE has a following of more than 1 million on Twitter.

In 2015, EPE launched its Education Week Video unit to produce segments for the PBS NewsHour and other broadcast partners as well as digital video and multimedia content for edweek.org and other online platforms. Late last year, EPE also launched *EdWeek Market Brief*, a premium news and information service focused on business developments and market trends in education.

Through its Education Week Leadership Dinners and other live events, EPE convenes hundreds of policymakers and administrators and dozens of vendors each year for programs and conversations on education’s hottest topics. EPE is also home to the TopSchoolJobs.org job-recruitment service, a book-publishing arm called Education Week Press, and the Education Week Research Center.

‘DELIBERATE RETHINKING AND RESTRUCTURING’

Edwards said she’s proud of the organization’s diversification and evolution during her tenure. “While it’s been a bumpy ride at times, we have accomplished much during the past more than two decades of incredible media disruption,” she said. “Like other publishers that have survived and thrived during the difficult and ongoing transition from print to digital publishing, EPE looks very different today than it did even a few years ago.”

She continued: “The transformation from the early years of *Education Week* to the EPE of today did not happen overnight, or by accident. The changes build on years of deliberate rethinking and restructuring. Today, EPE staffers are unabashedly passionate and energetic about a future that looks vastly different. The changes reshaping journalism and the business of publishing are providing more opportunities than ever to innovate, to reach out and connect, and to serve as a catalyst for change in pre-K-12 education.”

Before joining EPE, Edwards worked for two years for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and, for nearly 10 years before that, was an editor and reporter at *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Ky. A frequent speaker on education-policy and media issues, Edwards has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

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ABOUT EPE AND EDUCATION WEEK

Editorial Projects in Education is the independent, nonprofit publisher of *Education Week* and other print and online products serving educators, researchers, policymakers, and the public with high-quality reporting and analysis on pre-K-12 education. EPE’s mission is to raise awareness and understanding of critical issues facing American schools.

Since its founding in 1981, *Education Week* has been recognized as America’s pre-eminent source of news and information in precollegiate education. With an editorial purview that spans local, state, and national news and issues from preschool through the transition from high school, *Education Week* is a comprehensive source for news, information, analysis, and services essential to driving critical changes in pre-K-12 policy and practice.

The nearly \$18 million-a-year organization is supported by a combination of revenue sources, including advertising and sponsorships as well as subscriptions and other paid-content offerings. In addition, grants from foundations account for about 20 percent of EPE’s total revenue each year and typically underwrite coverage of specific topics and business-development efforts.