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**Walden University, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency
Partner to Offer Degrees Online to Educators and Associates**

An alliance between Walden University and the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA 9) will give educators and associates throughout eastern Iowa the opportunity to enroll in higher education programs at The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University. The partnership will provide teacher in Area Nine, administrators and their staff with professional development opportunities by facilitating their access to Walden's master's and doctoral programs, as well as the Bachelor of Science in Child Development program, state-approved teacher preparation program, state-approved special education endorsement programs, and individual graduate courses.

“Walden University recognizes the significant progress and commitment the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency has made towards enhancing teacher preparation and in developing scholar-practitioners among educators and administrators serving students in K-12 classrooms. Walden has a rich teacher education legacy, and we are committed to helping ensure the learning, achievement, and success of student in eastern Iowa by preparing outstanding leaders in education,” said Victoria Reid, Vice President of the Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University.

“Graduates, from the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency area, have found the Master's in Education program to be practical and rigorous. Teachers appreciate the ability to immediately apply their new knowledge and skills in the classroom, and to see positive results with their students. The quality of the master's program has spurred some of the graduates to pursue their doctorates through the Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University. The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency is proud to partner with such a quality program,” said Georgie Koenig, Head of Professional Development at the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

Walden University's Riley College of Education and Leadership, named in honor of Richard W. Riley, former Secretary of the US Department of Education and a leading advocate in advancing education, is one of the nation's largest providers of graduate degrees to educators. Walden degree programs support the needs of educators at all levels, from preschool through higher education, and at various stages of their profession, including new and veteran classroom teachers, experienced faculty, and administrators, and career changers interested in pursuing teaching through teacher preparation programs in two of the most vital areas of teacher shortage: Early Childhood Education (Birth-

Grade 3) and Special Education (K-12) in the areas of learning disabilities or emotional/behavioral disorders.

For more information about the Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University, visit www.WaldenU.edu.

About Walden University

Since 1970, Walden University has offered working professionals the opportunity to earn advanced degrees through distance learning. Today, this comprehensive, accredited online university offers masters and doctoral degrees in education, psychology, management, public policy, and administration, health, and human services, as well as master's programs in engineering and IT. Walden also offers bachelor's programs in business administration, psychology, child development, computer information systems, and interdisciplinary studies. Walden University is a member of Laureate International university, a leading global network of accredited campus-based and online universities. For more information, visit www.WaldenU.edu.

Walden university is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, www.ncahlc.org; (312) 263-0456.

About Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency

The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency is one of twelve area education agencies (AEAs) in the state created by the 1974 Iowa Legislature to ensure all children have equal educational opportunities. AEAs serve as intermediate units providing educational services to local schools.

More than 50,000 students in public and approved non-public schools in 15 buildings are served by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. This area includes all of Clinton, Scott and Muscatine counties, as well as parts of Cedar, Jackson and Louisa counties.