Deb Adair to Succeed Ron Legon as CEO of Quality Matters™, Inc.

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Annapolis- MD-The Quality Matters™ Board of Directors announced today that it has accepted Ron Legon’s resignation as Executive Director after 10 years in the position and appointed longtime Managing Director and Chief Planning officer, Deborah Adair, to the post, effective January 18, 2016

“The Board of Directors thanks Dr. Legon for his leadership and vision to make Quality Matters (QM) the gold standard for quality in online course design and development. The Board members are confident that Dr. Adair will continue QM’s growth and development as a leader in online learning quality assurance,” said Board Chair Rocky Sorrell.

Legon’s most recent successes were the development of QM standards for Online Program Certification and an agreement with Fudan University in Shanghai, China to adapt the Quality Matters’ course design rubric for Chinese higher education. During a six-months sabbatical following his resignation, Dr. Legon will be engaged in a major study on the impact of QM course design standards on student achievement.

In 2006, Dr. Legon became Executive Director when MarylandOnline (MOL) established the non-profit Quality Matters Program to develop and disseminate QM’s online course design standards and peer-to-peer course review and improvement process. In the intervening years, QM has grown to represent more than a thousand institutional members, officially reviewed and enhanced approximately 5,000 fully online and blended courses, and provided tools and a framework for the informal review and improvement of thousands more.

Prior to joining QM in 2006, Dr. Legon’s academic and administrative career stretched for 42 years. Beginning with several years at Brooklyn College in the CUNY system, followed by 25 years at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) leaving as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and 15 years at the University of Baltimore including 11 years as Provost, and visiting appointments at the University of Chicago and the US Naval War College. Dr. Legon received his degrees from the City University of New York (BA) and Cornell University (MA and Ph.D), in addition to Fulbright study at Brasenose College, Oxford University. While at the University of Baltimore, he launched the first fully online AACSB accredited MBA Program and led the MBNA E-Learning Center.
Dr. Adair joined Quality Matters in 2007, serving first as Director of Administration and later as the Managing Director to extend the business plan, recruit the staff, build the business infrastructure, and manage the operations to propel the organization to a leadership position in the online learning market. Adair has developed and managed many of QM's external partnerships and alliances, led the strategic planning efforts, and represented the organization on the national level.

With over 25 years' experience in higher education, Adair has held faculty appointments with several institutions, worked as an organizational consultant, and served in an executive position in the adult literacy field prior to joining QM. Deb serves on the Steering Committee of the technology-based education association WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) and on the Advisory board for the National University Technology Network (NUTN) and has authored and presented widely on the topic of quality assurance for online learning.

Looking back on his time leading QM, Dr. Legon says, “I take great pride in the team we have built and the support we have earned from faculty, instructional design staff, and the entire online learning community. QM has already had a major influence on the quality of online learning in the U.S., and I am confident that QM’s stature and influence will continue to grow as we broaden our quality assurance role to meet a wider range of needs in online learning at home and abroad.”

QM Quality Matters™ is a leader in quality assurance for online education and has received national recognition for its peer-based approach to the continuous improvement in online education. QM subscribers include community and technical colleges, four-year colleges, and universities, K-12 schools and systems, and other academic and commercial institutions in the U.S. and internationally. QM is best known for its design standards (Rubrics) for online and blended courses for higher education, continuing and professional education, K-12, and publisher provided courses. For more information, visit www.qualitymatters.org