



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT:** Stephaan Harris, (202) 357-7504, [Stephaan.Harris@ed.gov](mailto:Stephaan.Harris@ed.gov)

### **Harvard School of Education Professor Appointed to National Assessment Governing Board National Testing Expert Is One of Six Members Named by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan**

WASHINGTON (August 21, 2012) — Andrew Ho, a testing and measurement expert who is an assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has been appointed to serve a four-year term on the National Assessment Governing Board, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced yesterday. Five other Board members—three of them also new appointees—were announced as well. Their terms begin October 1, 2012.

Ho, who has taught at Harvard University since 2010, will serve in the category of “testing and measurement expert” on the Governing Board, which sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as The Nation’s Report Card. NAEP is the country’s only nationally representative assessment of student achievement in various subjects, including mathematics, reading, writing, and science.

“We are delighted to have Andrew join the Board,” said Governing Board Chairman David Driscoll. “Not only is he a widely recognized testing and measurement expert, but also much of his research has involved NAEP. His background will be a major asset in efforts to oversee The Nation’s Report Card—the most valuable benchmark we have for monitoring student progress nationally and for states and large urban school districts.”

At Harvard University Ho conducts psychometric research on accountability metrics and teaches courses involving educational measurement and statistics. Over the years, Ho has extensively used NAEP data in research projects, publications and presentations, and his areas of analysis have included comparing score trends on NAEP and state tests and evaluating growth models for educational assessment. A recipient of numerous national awards and fellowships, he is also a member of the Future of NAEP Panel, appointed by the National Center for Education Statistics. Ho was a visiting scholar at Stanford University and previously served as assistant professor of educational measurement and statistics at the University of Iowa.

Ho joins the Board as it is overseeing several important initiatives, including research on how NAEP can be used as an indicator of 12<sup>th</sup>-grade academic preparedness for college and job training; NAEP parent engagement, with a focus on conveying the urgency of closing achievement gaps and improving student performance; innovative computer-based NAEP assessments; and studies linking NAEP with the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Congress established the 26-member Governing Board in 1988 to oversee NAEP, which makes objective information on student performance available to policymakers and the public at the national, state, and local levels. NAEP has served an important role in evaluating the condition and progress of U.S. educational achievement since 1969. Among many other duties, the Governing Board determines subjects to be tested, the test content, and achievement levels for each test, and works to inform the public about NAEP results.

Ho joins a group of governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators and researchers, business representatives, and members of the general public who make up the Board. In addition to Ho, others appointed by Secretary Duncan yesterday are listed below along with their hometown, category of appointment, and official title. The term for each member is slated to extend to September 30, 2016.

- **Honorable Anitere Flores**, Miami – Republican state legislator:  
Florida state senator; Board member since 2008
- **Rebecca Gagnon**, Minneapolis – local school board member:  
Director of the Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education
- **Terry Mazany**, Chicago – general public representative:  
President and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust
- **Joseph O’Keefe**, Chestnut Hill, Mass. – non-public school administrator or policymaker:  
Professor at Boston College’s Lynch School of Education
- **Honorable Sonny Perdue**, Atlanta – Republican governor:  
Consultant and former governor of Georgia; Board member since 2008

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*The National Assessment Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan board whose members include governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public. Congress created the 26-member Governing Board in 1988 to oversee and set policy for NAEP.*

*The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative, continuing evaluation of the condition of education in the United States. It has served as a national yardstick of student achievement since 1969. Through The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP informs the public about what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas, and compares achievement between states, large urban districts, and various student demographic groups.*