

# News Release

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Board of Governors for Higher Education  
Department of Higher Education  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Commissioner Lewis to Head National Group*

HARTFORD, Oct. 31 — The State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) has unanimously elected Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education Valerie F. Lewis to serve as its president-elect effectively immediately. Her term as president will begin in fall 2003.

Headquartered in Denver, SHEEO is a nonprofit, nationwide association of the chief executive officers serving statewide coordinating boards and governing boards of postsecondary education. SHEEO serves as a liaison between states and the federal government and conducts projects across states to improve higher education. Its current president is Roderick G. Chu, Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents.

Lewis, of Vernon, has served as Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education since 2000. She has been with the Department of Higher Education since 1987, holding a variety of positions including special assistant to the commissioner, assistant commissioner, deputy commissioner and interim commissioner.

Albert B. Vertefeuille, chairman of Connecticut's Board of Governors for Higher Education, hailed Lewis' appointment as "an honor both for our agency and for the State of Connecticut. I am delighted that Commissioner Lewis' talents are being recognized and appreciated nationally as they are here at home."

The appointment coincides with re-authorization of the federal Higher Education Act which Congress is expected to take up next year, giving Connecticut an important voice in shaping national policy.

Lewis is a native of Connecticut and has worked at public and independent colleges across the state. She and her husband Thomas, an author and retired geography professor from Manchester Community College, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

For more information on SHEEO, please visit [www.sheeo.org](http://www.sheeo.org).

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