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**PATRICIA MCGINNIS TO STEP DOWN AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF  
THE COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT**

**WASHINGTON**—Patricia McGinnis, President and CEO of the Council for Excellence in Government ([www.excelgov.org](http://www.excelgov.org)), announced today that she will step down from that position later in 2008. She will remain as President and CEO until a successor is named.

“Under the extraordinary leadership of Pat McGinnis and the team she has built, the Council has become a strong and respected voice for innovation and accountability in government,” said John Macomber, Chair of the Council’s Board of Trustees. “The Council is in a very good place as we begin to recruit a new CEO, and we are more confident than ever about the importance of our mission and our capacity to move the Council’s agenda forward.”

According to McGinnis, the opportunity to lead an organization of people who are as remarkable as its ambitious mission has been challenging, energizing and enormously rewarding. “I’m proud of our accomplishments, which are a tribute to the passion for public service, entrepreneurial spirit and insistence on results by our Trustees, Principals, staff and our many colleagues and partners in government and the private sector. In this year of change and transition, the time seems right for new leadership at the Council and for me to explore new ways to continue my work in the public interest,” said McGinnis.

Macomber announced that a presidential search committee has been formed and will be co-chaired by Council Vice-Chair, Patrick Gross, and Council Treasurer, Joseph Kasputys. Members of the committee include Council Vice-Chair, Maxine Isaacs, and Council Trustees, Charles Rossotti and Thomas Dohrmann. A major theme of the Council’s work in 2008 will continue to be the Presidential Transition and the changing of the guard in the federal government and in many states and cities across the country.

Founded 25 years ago, the Council works to improve the performance of government and to engage the public in the governance process and public service. The hallmarks of the Council’s work are bi-partisanship, collaboration and results-oriented leadership.

Under McGinnis’ leadership, the Council:

- Expanded the Excellence in Government Fellows leadership development programs for senior government managers, which has graduated more than 2,500 leaders who have become a significant force for constructive change in government.
- Created orientation and leadership programs for Presidential Appointees at the request of the Clinton and Bush administrations, designed to promote teamwork, state of the art management and accountability for results.

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- Produced a Blueprint for Electronic Government, in collaboration with leaders in government, business and academia, which is recognized as the basis for the E-Government Act, the establishment of a federal chief information officer, and a host of cross government initiatives.
- Sponsored, with national and local officials and opinion leaders, a series of unprecedented “Town Hall Meetings” in communities across the country to connect the public with their leaders and with each other around the critical issues of homeland security, jobs and the economy and health care reform. These dynamic public discussions, along with local and national survey research and the guidance of expert advisors on these topics, have resulted in practical recommendations and solutions, many of which have been implemented by government, businesses and citizens.
- Conducted strategic in-depth polling of the public to bring that perspective to executive and legislative decision makers on topics ranging from controlling the cost of health care to attracting the best and brightest to public service.
- Examined the implications of trends in the media coverage of government and the role of popular culture in attitudes toward public service through content analysis and in lively discussions with journalists, writers and producers of news and entertainment.
- Formed the Coalition for Evidence Based Policy, which has promoted policy development, funding and implementation of public programs on the basis of rigorous evidence about what works, resulting in key reforms in OMB’s performance assessment, and the design and funding of numerous education, health, and criminal justice programs.
- Conceived the SAGE (Strategic Advisors to Government Executives) programs, unique communities of practice, where public and private sector leaders share successful strategies, tools and techniques along with lessons learned.
- Revitalized “Public Service Recognition Week” activities and events on the National Mall and in cities and states across the country, designed to connect the public with the people who work for them and to attract young Americans to public service.
- Guided the selection and preparation of Presidential Appointees through the Council’s signature quadrennial “Prune Book” profiles of the top management jobs and what it takes for survival and success, which is going online in 2008.

Before joining the Council in 1994, McGinnis was a founder and Principal of the FMR Group, a public strategy firm where she concentrated on education, energy and communications policy. In government, she served in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, where she led the effort to create the U.S. Department of Education. She also held senior posts at the Senate Budget Committee, and the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services.

McGinnis serves on numerous committees and boards, including the Dean’s Alumni Leadership Council at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and the Board of Visitors at the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a member of the Steering Committee of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University, and is currently a Director of the Brown Shoe Company in St. Louis, Missouri, and LMI in McLean, Virginia. She will continue as a Trustee of the Council for Excellence in Government, once a new Chief Executive is in place.

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