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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ESC Region 11 Executive Director Announces Retirement After More Than Four Decades in Education**

**Fort Worth, Texas** – After more than 42 years of dedicated service to public education in Texas, Clyde W. Steelman Jr., Executive Director of the Education Service Center Region 11 (ESC Region 11), has announced his retirement, effective January 31, 2026. Dr. Steelman received his Bachelor's in Industrial Education and Technology and his Master's in Secondary Education from Tarleton State University. He went on to obtain his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Lamar University.

His career, which began in 1984, has left a lasting mark on the students, educators, and communities he has served across Central and North Texas. Known for his servant leadership, unwavering support of public schools, and ability to bring people together, Steelman's impact will be felt long after his final day in office.

"Education has been the calling of my life, and it has been the greatest honor to serve students and educators throughout Texas," he said. "Each stop along the way shaped me, and I've carried the lessons and relationships from every district and campus into the work we've done together at the service center."

Steelman began his career in 1984 in Granbury ISD, where he taught life skills shop and coached junior high basketball, football, and track. He later transitioned to the high school level, continuing to coach and teach for five years. From there, he moved to Tolar ISD, teaching and serving as the Head Girls Athletic Coordinator.

His first leadership role in administration came in Glen Rose ISD as a high school assistant principal. That opportunity sparked a passion for campus and district leadership, leading to his appointment as superintendent in Bluff Dale ISD in 1995, followed by Muenster ISD in 2000.

In 2006, he joined ESC Region 11 as Deputy Executive Director for Business and Administrative Services, eventually being named Executive Director in 2012. Under his leadership, Region 11 expanded its statewide influence and became widely recognized for its innovation, customer service, and commitment to building strong partnerships with districts and charter schools.

Throughout his career, Steelman was guided by a deep belief in public education and the value of collaborative leadership. His peers across Texas, including superintendents, agency leaders, and fellow ESC directors, often noted his ability to lead with both strength and humility.

As he prepares for the next chapter, Steelman looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Julie, on their family property, Steelman Farms. Together, they enjoy caring for the land, tending to animals, and creating a life centered around faith, family, and service. They are proud parents and now grandparents, a role he says is “by far the best promotion I’ve ever received.”

“I’m grateful for every student, educator, colleague, and friend who’s been part of this journey,” he said. “This work has always been about who we serve and the people we serve with. I leave confident that ESC Region 11 will continue to thrive in the hands of the remarkable team we’ve built together.”

The ESC Region 11 Board of Directors will begin the search process for a new Executive Director, with Steelman continuing in full capacity through January 31, 2026, and supporting a smooth transition.

Region 11 is one of 20 education service center regions in the state. It covers 10 counties in north central Texas that include 76 traditional public school districts and more than 90 charter school campuses.

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