

7/8/19



CALIFORNIANS
DEDICATED TO
EDUCATION

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Five and a half years ago I was honored to start my tenure as CEO of the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation. It's been a true joy to build this organization with all of you, with our staff, and our fantastic partners at the California Department of Education.

Together we've supported the implementation of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards; we've built coalitions focused on labor-management collaboration, the California School Dashboard and continuous improvement; we've grown the California STEAM Symposium; and we've been able to support many initiatives at the CDE. We've worked together through the most comprehensive policy overhaul of our public education system in many years. Through all of it, we've built relationships and trust so that even when we don't agree, we can continue to work together.

I am so grateful to have had this opportunity and can't thank you enough for all the support, advice, and friendship. **As I move on to my next chapter, running for State Senate, I am thrilled to let you know that Jessica Howard will be our new CEO!** Most of you know Jessica as the visionary leader of the California STEAM Symposium. Working with CDE and many, many partners, she has grown the conference into a premier event attended by STEAM educators from across our state and across the country. It's particularly exciting for me, as Jessica was the first person I hired at CDE Foundation, just a few short months after I started. **She has been instrumental in the growth and partnerships at CDE Foundation and is the perfect person to lead the organization as we work with new leadership at the California Department of Education and continue to partner with all of you.**

Jessica was chosen after a search process conducted by the board and rose to the top as uniquely qualified to take over the reins at CDE Foundation. Our board chair, Jennifer Peck says that Jessica's combination of experience, commitment to partnership, and understanding of our public education system make her the right person at the right time for CDE Foundation.

Jessica starts this week in her CEO role, and I know she'd love to hear from you. If you haven't met her already, please feel free to reach out and say hello. She can be reached by [email](#).

I'd love to stay in touch with all of you, and going forward you can reach me at my personal [email](#). **Thank you for all you do for our 6.2 million students in California!**

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our funders for their support over the years! Your commitment and vision are inspiring and I appreciate all I've learned from all of you and our many partners over the years.

With gratitude,
Shelly Masur

CDE Foundation

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