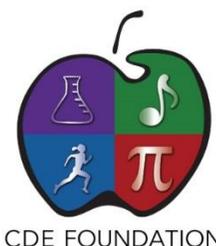


11/17/21



Dear CDE Foundation Partners and Supporters,

The CDE Foundation continues to be a source of collaboration and support for California's education leaders and the students they serve throughout the state. The challenges and loss during the pandemic reinforced the value and importance of collaborative partnerships in supporting our students, families and educators. As we look toward 2022, we are excited about our continued growth. There are some updates that we want to share with you about our leadership and our partnership with the CDE and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond.

Our CEO Jessica Howard will be transitioning out of her role ([read letter here](#)) this month. We are grateful for her vibrant leadership and wish her well in her next venture. Jessica is and will remain a great asset to our foundation. Ed Honowitz, our Senior Director for the CA Labor Management Initiative (CA LMI) has agreed to serve as Interim CEO while we prepare to launch an official search led by a Board committee for a new CEO to lead this extraordinary team of professionals.

Ed has an extensive background in education policy with a focus on K-12 education, school-based health, community schools partnership strategies, and cross-agency collaboration. Before coming to the CDE Foundation five years ago, he served as education policy advisor for Senator Carol Liu who chaired the Senate Education Committee. [You can read his bio here.](#) Our COO Wendy Dougherty will work in close partnership with Ed during these next few months, while helping to onboard new staff, and continue overseeing foundation operations.

A search timeline and position description will be available after Thanksgiving, please [subscribe to our eBlast list](#) or follow our social media channels for the latest updates. Our goal is to have our new CEO in place by early second quarter, 2022. We are also embarking on a strategic planning process that will result in a five-year plan of action for the next phase of this organization's critical contribution and collaboration with CDE, funders, and education leadership organizations.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership during the next few months. If you have questions regarding this announcement, you can reach [Ed Honowitz here](#), or contact me at [my email](#).

In partnership,
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Board Chair

CDE Foundation

260 Main Street, Ste. 200
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.cdefoundation.org

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