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Gina Lucas

Dear REACH Prep Community,

The arrival of spring is always a natural time of year to look forward and feel the optimism of new beginnings. I have had the privilege of leading REACH Prep for eight years during a pivotal and dynamic time in its evolution, and it truly has been the highlight of my career to call REACH Prep my professional home. I have been able to work with our Scholars and Alumni as they embrace and embody the spirit that is REACH Prep: Seeking challenging opportunities, working as hard as possible, being a constructive member of your communities, making an impact and giving back however you can, and then seeking new challenges when the time is right.

While this is a difficult letter for me to write to a community of which I am deeply honored to be a member, it is with that same spirit that I share that I have decided that this will be my final year as CEO and I will be moving on to chart a new professional adventure. I am excited to pursue the next stage of my career that will continue to be mission-driven and dedicated to creating lasting change. I will leave my role at REACH Prep later this summer, and there is much left to accomplish together before that time.

When I accepted this position in 2014, I had a twofold vision that remains my guiding light: REACH Prep must operate as an exceptionally strong nonprofit organization with the highest programmatic, financial, and administrative standards, and all REACH Prep decisions and actions must be motivated and guided by what will most effectively help our students thrive and succeed in our care and beyond. It has been an honor to work with such a committed Board of Directors and an immensely talented team of staff and faculty to help make that vision a reality. I am especially grateful for our students, parents and Alumni who remind me every day why this mission continues to be essential in this region and life-changing for those who experience it. I look forward to closely following all the milestones and success that I know our students will achieve in the coming years.

REACH Prep is as strong as ever having effectively navigated the pandemic, and it is currently recruiting its 29th Cohort of Scholars while delivering high quality programs and support as it steadily approaches its 30th year in 2024. Over the last several years we have enhanced and expanded programming to meet the current and emerging needs of students, built out advanced college guidance and transition activities, established strategic plans for the Board of Directors and the organization, secured the largest gift in the organization's history, expanded the Board of Directors, formed a Junior Council, celebrated a 25th Anniversary, and achieved successful independent school and college admissions and graduation outcomes. The mission of REACH Prep feels as alive and necessary as ever, and the Board of Directors and staff are perfectly positioned so that the best days for the organization are most certainly ahead.

I look forward to working very closely with the Board of Directors and staff over the next several months to ensure a seamless and smooth transition to the next person who will have the good fortune and passion to lead this organization. Toward that end, the Board of Directors is in its first stages of a search process, and a newly formed Search Committee and I will partner together as an active search commences. I am grateful for the Board's support and commitment to making this process as collaborative as possible.

My tremendous gratitude extends to the Junior Council, independent schools, donors, friends, volunteers, and supporters with whom I have had the pleasure of working to fulfill REACH Prep's mission. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for believing in our Scholars on their academic and personal paths. I look forward to working with you all over the next several months and to welcoming in a new chapter.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina Lucas".

Gina Lucas
CEO



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REACH Prep - Board of Directors Announcement

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of Gina Lucas, CEO of REACH Prep, at the end of the summer. However, we are very excited about the future here at the organization and are committed to ensuring a seamless transition. To this end, we have formed a Search Committee comprised of four Executive Committee board members: Paul Triggiani, Nisha Hurst, Heather Mosley, and Lauren O'Shaughnessy. We have engaged DRG Talent Advisory Group, a highly regarded search firm in the education space, to assist in our search for a new CEO. We are confident that DRG will be instrumental in helping us define and attract an excellent group of candidates with the goal of ultimately selecting a new CEO who can build on REACH Prep's current success.

Gina has been a transformative influence on our organization, expanding the assistance we provide to our Scholars and their families while demonstrating exemplary leadership of our organization. Over the past eight years, she possessed the utmost dedication and passion for her work, serving as a role model for her team and a mentor to her students and their families. We thank her for her service and we wish her all the best in her next chapter.

As always, we want to thank our generous donors who have supported us over the years. Your commitment to REACH Prep helps hundreds of underserved children achieve their dreams and have success at all levels of their education as well as in their chosen career. We also want to thank all of our partner independent schools and each of their administration teams and teachers who work tirelessly with REACH Prep Scholars throughout their academic progression.

As we progress in the search process, we will be in touch with regular updates. Gina will continue in her role as CEO for the upcoming months and will work with the Board as we prepare to welcome Cohort 29 and look forward to our June 6 golf and tennis event.

Best regards,

Paul, Nisha, Heather and Lauren