

## REACH Prep Selects Dr. Candice L. Clawson as New Chief Executive Officer

Stamford, CT (August 24, 2022) REACH Prep is thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Candice L. Clawson as the next Chief Executive Officer. After a thorough and comprehensive six-month national search, the Board of Directors is confident that Candice is uniquely qualified to lead REACH Prep successfully into the future and is excited for this next phase for the organization.

“From the moment we met Candice, it was clear that she is enthusiastic about the mission of educational access and continuing to help grow our organization,” said REACH Prep Board Chair, Lauren O’Shaughnessy. “She is a natural born leader with the passion, energy, and expertise to lead REACH Prep over the coming years. Candice understands the needs of our students and the importance of our program to lift families from underserved communities, creating a path forward for generations into the future. The Board is thrilled to welcome her.”

Clawson is a passionate and visionary non-profit leader with a demonstrated commitment to educational access for underserved communities. She has consistently worked with underrepresented student populations and has spent her entire career in partnerships with independent schools and working across school networks. Candice is excited to bring her extensive experience in educational access to REACH Prep.

“Now more than ever, the educational landscape is rife with opportunity,” said Clawson. “Preparing Scholars at the highest level for the rigors of independent school and college impacts the trajectory of their lives by ensuring no opportunity is out of reach. We have a duty to provide best in class access to quality inputs, while also prioritizing holistic care for students, and their support network. The ultimate goal is to impact the economic mobility of Scholars and their families and provide the scaffolding for a long-term shift of intergenerational narratives. I’m honored to lead such a great organization and look forward to leveraging my expertise and lived experiences to bring REACH Prep to the next level.”

As the Harlem Children’s Zone Managing Director from 2019-2022, Candice administered an annual budget of \$8.8M and lead a team of 55 full-time staff, while serving 2,000+ undergraduate participants and 1,000+ college alumni. Additionally, Candice often served as a subject matter expert for non-profit leaders and campus administrators on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Candice has outstanding skills in budget management, program management, community outreach, fundraising, employee development and leadership.

As Prep for Prep’s Director of Undergraduate Affairs from 2014-2019, Candice led a team that served 750 undergraduate students at 130 Colleges and Universities. During her tenure, she created and implemented a Strategic Plan that resulted in a significant increase in participation and improved college graduation rates.

Candice earned a Doctorate in Education, Organizational Change and Leadership from University of Southern California, a Master of Arts in Higher and Post-Secondary Education from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration from Seton Hall University. Candice’s

research centers around environmental factors schools can implement to ensure adequate support for students from minoritized backgrounds.

Gina Lucas, the outgoing Chief Executive Officer who has led the organization since 2015, enthusiastically supports Clawson and is confident that she will be an outstanding leader for REACH Prep. Lucas and Clawson will collaborate on several occasions to share expertise, and over the next few months Clawson will work closely with staff, schools, parents, students, and the Board of Directors to ensure a seamless transition. Clawson will be assuming leadership on September 14, 2022.

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### **About REACH Prep**

[\(<https://reachprep.org>\)](https://reachprep.org)

REACH Prep provides access to transformative educational experiences that empower underserved, high achieving, Black and Latinx students graduate from top colleges and emerge as the next generation of leaders. Founded in 1994, REACH Prep serves 250 students annually in Fairfield and Westchester Counties and the Bronx, so they complete college empowered with the skills, confidence, and knowledge to have a lasting impact. The REACH Prep program consists of 12 years of rigorous preparation, individualized support, and close academic monitoring from the summer after 4<sup>th</sup> grade through college. 100% of REACH Prep's scholars graduate from high school, 100% are accepted to a top college or university, and 90% graduate from their college or university, a statistic that is almost double the national average for underrepresented students.