

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bellevue Schools Foundation

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Bellevue Schools Foundation Welcomes Four New Members to Its Board of Trustees

Premier Washington State nonprofit expands its Board of Trustees
to support critical education initiatives in Bellevue.

Bellevue, Washington -- Bellevue Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of four new Trustees to support the students, parents, and educators who comprise the Bellevue public school community. During its July Meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the addition of Malinda Elien, Garrett Fenton, Deepa Patten, and Chandana Surlu as its newest board members.

Ms. Elien has two daughters attending Bellevue Big Picture School and has been involved with the Parent Teacher Student Association and other Bellevue public school committees for close to 10 years. She currently works as a Technical Program Manager at Bellevue-based Fresh Consulting; leveraging her engineering background to support clients interested in enhancing their product lines. Malinda shares, "I am excited to be joining the Foundation Board to help continue the work to positively impact all students in the Bellevue School District."

Mr. Fenton and his wife live in Bellevue with their three sons, who attend Tillicum Middle School, Eastgate Elementary, and Puesta Del Sol Elementary. Garrett is a Senior Corporate Attorney for Microsoft focusing on compensation and benefits. He also serves on the boards of the Newport Select Boys Basketball Club, Bellevue Thunderbird Little League, the ERISA Industry Committee, and the In-House Benefits Counsel Network. Garrett offers, "I'm incredibly honored and excited to have the opportunity to join the Bellevue Schools Foundation's Board of Trustees. The Foundation plays such an important role in promoting and funding critical programs in STEM, the arts, and early childhood learning, just to name a few, that allow the Bellevue School District to provide educational opportunities that are second to none. I look forward to working with my fellow trustees to build upon the Foundation's success, and ensure that all Bellevue students have access to these amazing programs, to help them realize their full potential."

Ms. Patten brings the Bellevue Schools Foundation her experience as a seasoned product and brand marketer for major companies which include PepsiCo and Starbucks, having driven the expansion of products into new markets, across new platforms and helping develop strategic plans for those brands. In addition, Deepa is a longtime volunteer in the community, where she recently served as Parent Teacher Student Association Co-President at Woodridge Elementary and has also been a Girl Scout Troop leader for several years. Reflecting on her appointment, Deepa states, "As a parent of three children in the Bellevue School District, I've witnessed the impact that the Bellevue Schools Foundation has through innovative programming and enrichment. I'm thrilled to play a part in the legacy of excellence and equity for all students."



Ms. Surlu worked at Microsoft for 10 years as a software design engineer and has recently committed her time to volunteering in the Bellevue community, with a specific focus on STEM-based projects for students, voting rights, and socio-economic causes. Chandana is also a mentor for Interlake High School's Saints Robotics, an after school club with an operating model similar to that of a start-up corporation. In consideration of her new leadership position, she shares, "I am excited to be joining a group of community members who care for the well being of the students and the families in the Bellevue School District."

Ms. Elien, Mr. Fenton, Ms. Patten, and Ms. Surlu join 22 additional members currently serving the Bellevue Schools Foundation Board of Trustees.

ABOUT THE BELLEVUE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION: The mission of the Bellevue Schools Foundation is to promote and fund the best possible learning opportunities for ALL Students in Bellevue's public schools. For over 40 years, the Bellevue Schools Foundation has driven resources to Bellevue's public schools, with over \$36 million contributed to date. Students enrolled in the Bellevue School District are incredibly diverse: 100 languages are spoken; 125 countries of birth are represented; and 40% of students speak a first language other than English. Bellevue Schools Foundation is particularly noteworthy for its commitment to teacher development, and 45% of Bellevue School District teachers have achieved NBCT certification through the National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards, an achievement that is proven to directly correlate with increased learning potential in students.

Bellevue Schools Foundation supports the dismantling of structural and systemic inequities that perpetuate both naive and intentional discrimination against persons of all races, ethnicities, religions, gender orientations, disabilities, and economic statuses. The Foundation believes that education is the basis for opportunity, growth, and success in life. The Foundation is uniquely positioned to be a catalytic agent of positive change and advancement in Bellevue's public schools, and leverage private support to provide the high-quality education the community deserves.

To learn more about our work and/or make a contribution, click [here](#).