

Meet our new Executive Director

We are proud to announce the hiring of Maria Elena Geyer as the new executive director of the Bellevue Schools Foundation. Maria Elena brings more than 25 years of progressive leadership experience in large and small non-profit community programs and services. Maria Elena began her career with Bloodworks Northwest and most recently led Cancer Partners in Palm Springs, California. She holds a BS from Jacksonville University and has been active throughout her career as a lecturer and trainer in nonprofit leadership and fundraising.

Maria Elena's career commitment to non-profit community service, as well as her proven record of success building and leading community organizations, will provide the experience and expertise the Foundation needs as we head into our next phase of growth. Her proven track record of leading change and innovation, focus on operational excellence, and past knowledge of the Seattle-area community position her to effectively work within our organization and community to further the mission of the Bellevue Schools Foundation.



“Hiring an Executive Director with the unique combination of experience, passion, and work ethic that Maria Elena brings to the Foundation is an enormous blessing and opportunity for us. Her dedication to non-profit work is bar none and her success as an innovative and collaborative leader makes her a perfect fit for the Bellevue Schools Foundation” said Arthur Emery, president of the Foundation Board of Trustees. **“We’re very excited for her to start and look forward to our future success together.”**

Geyer was selected by the board of trustees following an extensive search that attracted nearly 40 candidates from across the United States. She will lead the Foundation and be responsible for managing our board of directors, staff, and volunteers. Her responsibilities will include resource development, community relations, marketing, strategic planning, and administration. She will assume her duties starting in May.

“I’m extremely honored and excited about this opportunity. I look forward to joining a high rated education system and a respected team of professionals to ensure the students in the Bellevue School District receive the best educational and social-emotional outcomes possible. The Foundation epitomizes my passion for supporting those in my community who need it most and I am excited by the opportunity to work across the full gamut of student achievers to ensure their success. I look forward to returning to the Seattle area and reconnecting with a community and people who hold a special place in my heart. The Bellevue Schools Foundation is a critical partner for our public schools to support greater educational opportunities, improved health and wellness, and accessible learning for all students, all while enabling district-wide equality.”

Geyer will work with outgoing interim executive director Sue Camou Arrant to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. Sue has been integral in the Foundation's success over the past 8 months and has gone above and beyond in supporting us during the current national crisis. We cannot thank her enough for her dedication to the Bellevue Schools Foundation, her organizational excellence, and her inclusive and supportive leadership during her time with us.

The Bellevue Schools Foundation develops, promotes, and funds the best possible learning opportunities for ALL students in Bellevue's public schools.