



CONTACT:
Molly Barrett
Marketing & Communications Manager
molly@gennextmsp.org
Cell: 952-649-7809

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GENERATION NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO LEAD DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Minneapolis, MN --- Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, executive director of Generation Next since October 2016, has been chosen to lead the DC Public Charter School Board in Washington, D.C. as executive director beginning on July 31, 2020.

Founded in 2012, Generation Next is a coalition of civic, business and education leaders from across Minneapolis and Saint Paul dedicated to closing achievement and opportunity gaps by creating a common set of expected educational outcomes and inspiring collective action.

Under Walker-Davis's leadership, Generation Next benefited from close partnership with both Minneapolis Public Schools and Saint Paul Public Schools. She led expanded partnerships with local place-based efforts such as Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and Northside Achievement Zone, as well with other statewide collective impact efforts through the Education Partnerships Coalition. Walker-Davis also contributed to national conversations on race equity and education, including as a member of the StriveTogether Racial Equity Planning Team and Racial and Ethnic Action Team.

Collective impact aligned through Generation Next has contributed to steady gains in developmental screening at age three (from 18% in 2012 to 28% in 2018), as well as higher and more equitable high school graduation rates (from 52% in 2012 to 67% in 2018) across Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The coalition continues to draw attention to the persistent disparities at all stages of the cradle-to-career continuum, which are unfortunately growing in the current crisis. Generation Next plays a critical role in calling to action systems leaders to address disparities, now more than ever.

“I have learned so much from Michelle and I am grateful for her years of service to children and families in the Twin Cities and across the region,” said Reba Dominski, executive vice president, chief social responsibility officer, U.S. Bank and Generation Next Leadership Council co-chair. “While it is hard to see her leave our community, I know she will continue to have incredible impact and her legacy will live on in our ongoing work to close system opportunity gaps and help all children achieve their full potential.”



Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent Joe Gothard, Generation Next’s other co-chair, said, “Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis has been an invaluable leader of the Generation Next coalition over the past three years. I admire Michelle’s strong commitment to equity in everything that she does, and I am proud to see that she will still be fighting for all students in her new role in Washington, D.C. as she has done here in Saint Paul and across the Twin Cities for many years.”

Ed Graff, Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent and former Generation Next co-chair, said, “Generation Next has benefited from Michelle’s insightful experience and perspective on education policy combined with her firsthand knowledge of urban education.”

Prior to joining Generation Next, Walker-Davis spent nine years at Saint Paul Public Schools, leaving as Chief Executive Officer.

The DC PCSB is an independent government agency of the District of Columbia created in 1996. As the sole public charter school authorizer in the nation’s capital, it provides oversight to 123 public charter schools educating more than 43,000 students.

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Generation Next is a coalition of civic, business and education leaders from across Minneapolis and Saint Paul dedicated to closing achievement and opportunity gaps. Generation Next uses rigorous data analysis and community engagement to identify what works and replicate the most promising practices. www.gennextmsp.org.