

**CONTACT:**

Molly Barrett

Marketing & Communications Manager

molly@gennextmsp.org

612-343-6055

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*September 12, 2018***GENERATION NEXT NAMES NEW CO-CHAIR TO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL*****Joe Gothard named the new co-chair of Generation Next's Leadership Council***

Minneapolis, MN --- Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Superintendent Joe Gothard was named the new co-chair of Generation Next's Leadership Council today. Gothard will serve as the education co-chair of the Generation Next Leadership Council from 2018-2019. He will succeed Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent, Ed Graff, who was the co-chair from 2017 to 2018. Gothard is the superintendent of the state's second largest district, which serves more than 39,000 PreK-12 students. Gothard joined SPPS in 2017 and previously served as superintendent of the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage school district and as assistant superintendent for secondary schools in Madison, Wis. Generation Next, a coalition of education, community, government and business leaders working to identify key approaches to eliminate Minneapolis and Saint Paul's education achievement and opportunity gaps, selects one co-chair from the business community and one from the education community to lead this effort.

"Generation Next is an extraordinary coalition doing vital work, and I am proud to succeed Ed Graff in the co-chair role," said Dr. Gothard. "School districts across the Twin Cities are fighting to do better for our students, and Generation Next is on the front lines."

Reba Dominski, a founding member of Generation Next, president of the US Bank Foundation, and senior vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility at U.S. Bank, will continue to serve as the Leadership Council co-chair until 2019, representing the business community.

Says co-chair Reba Dominski, "We have been extremely fortunate to have had both superintendents from Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools serve in leadership roles with Generation Next. We greatly appreciate the work that has been done in the last year by co-chair Ed Graff, and we hope to continue Generation Next's success under new co-chair leadership from Joe Gothard."

Superintendents from both Minneapolis and Saint Paul have served continuously on the Generation Next Leadership Council since the organization's inception. The superintendents' involvement allows Generation Next to increase its partnership with local school districts. It is also a best practice in similar collective impact efforts across the nation.



Gothard will be entering his co-chair role with Generation Next as four new priority areas emerge for the coalition: Early Childhood Quality and Access, Teacher Diversity and Teaching Diverse Learners, College Readiness and Persistence, and Transitions.

Michelle J. Walker has served as Executive Director of Generation Next since 2016 after nearly a decade in leadership positions within Saint Paul Public Schools.

“The support of the Generation Next Leadership Council has not wavered since its inception,” said Ms. Walker. “I am especially grateful to Ed Graff for the support and guidance he has provided us over the past year and I welcome Joe Gothard to his new role on the Leadership Council. I understand the pressures on a superintendent’s time. That Ed, and now Joe, have committed not only to be at the Generation Next table, but to also take on this unique leadership role, makes clear their commitment to partnership and collaboration and improving the systems that serve our children. I am excited about our coalition’s current efforts and our emerging priority areas. These four priority areas identify gaps in the system that we, as a coalition, can align.”

In addition to identifying effective key approaches on behalf of student success, Generation Next also leverages and activates the community’s collective resources to bring those approaches to students.

Generation Next focuses its efforts in support of six key outcome areas: 1) Kindergarten Readiness; 2) Early Grade Literacy; 3) Middle Grade Math; 4) Social-Emotional Learning; 5) High School Graduation; and 6) Post-Secondary Attainment.

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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.