

MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

ED FUND ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RICHMOND, Calif -- The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund is pleased to announce the selection of Robert Bunce as the organization's new Executive Director. Robert officially began his new role as Executive Director on January 1, 2023. The selection was made after a national search and selection process.

“Robert has been an incredible asset to the Ed Fund and our community from the moment he started his work here. We couldn’t be more confident in his ability to lead this organization and champion our vision for more equitable schools” said Kathleen Harris, Board Chair, who led the executive committee in appointing a new director. “I am personally most excited by his understanding of what makes our organization so special and his long standing dedication to creating impact for our most marginalized students. Furthermore, I’m humbled by Robert’s deep connection to the students and schools we serve, and the values we hold.”

Robert comes to the role after serving the organization as Interim Executive Director for the past six months. With over 12 years of experience within the organization, Robert brings a wealth of K-12 knowledge and relationships to the work. Through his time with the Ed Fund, Robert has served as Deputy Director, Director of Strategic Partnerships, and the organization’s inaugural Program Director. “Serving in these roles for more than a decade, in this community, has been an honor. They have afforded me the opportunity to be in a relationship with the most incredible people dedicated to the success of our students and community,” said Robert.

Robert’s work in social justice began nearly 30 years ago. Prior to joining the Ed Fund, Robert served as Director of Education for Women Escaping a Violent Environment Inc. in Sacramento, Operations Director for Oasis Children's Services in New York City, and spent nearly a decade as a classroom teacher and coach.

Over his time at the Ed Fund, Robert has worked to develop and implement the Ed Fund’s organizational strategic plans. Some of the highlights from this work included the creation of the West County College Access Network, and West Contra Costa Out of School Time Collaborative. These initiatives dramatically increased student access to free public aid for college and quality after school and summer programs. More recently, Robert helped transition the Ed Fund to its current role as the strategic fund development intermediary for the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Through these efforts, the Ed Fund was able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting both a WCCUSD COVID-19 Relief Fund and

supporting the Richmond Rapid Response Fund - collectively raising over \$3M for our community. As the strategic fund development partner for WCCUSD, Robert has been instrumental, raising over \$4M in 4 years for WCCUSD initiatives and schools.

Another key strength of Robert has been his work with our fiscal projects. The Ed Fund currently works with over 30 fiscal projects to extend their mission in the community. Over the last 4 years, the Ed Fund has seen its fiscal project portfolio grow from just over \$400,000 to over \$1.8M this last year. “Robert has consistently demonstrated his leadership qualities by taking extraordinary initiative with our organization, helping to ensure our growth and stability,” says Jim Hollis, Executive Director of the Calculus Roundtable, a fiscal project of the Ed Fund. Kasey Blackburn-Jiron, coordinator for WCCUSD’s expanded learning department shares, “Robert’s dedication to our students is unmatched. He is a great partner who is always championing community partnerships and is driven to see their impact grow.”

Robert is a proud father of three and actively serves in their school’s community and on their school’s board of directors. Robert’s entrepreneurial spirit has also earned him a seat on the board of directors for DistrictOS, a K-12 data observability platform, and BizR KidZ Entertainment, a kids animation company. Robert loves to be in nature and share his love of the outdoors with his family.

With the arrival of the Ed Fund's new executive director and new faces of our staff, the organization invites the community to learn about their work through their recent annual report and ask that they save the date for our 40th celebration event on May 25th. If you believe in the Ed Fund's cause, help the organization celebrate 40 years of advocating for public education in West Contra Costa by making a donation to support this exciting transition.

The West Contra Costa Public Education Fund (Ed Fund) mobilizes resources for students and aligns the efforts of local partners to ensure that all students succeed in college, career and life. For more information, please visit www.edfundwest.org/who-we-are.

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