

March 29, 2019

Dear UPrep Community,

In November 2018, Matt Levinson shared the news with us that he will be leaving UPrep at the end of this school year. I am writing to share some exciting news with you from the Board of Trustees regarding the next steps in our school's leadership transition.

In December, I shared with you that the Board of Trustees appointed a seven-member Search Committee co-chaired by trustees Tori Ragen and Laura Domoto. They were joined by trustees Charisse Cowan-Pitre, Tim Richey, and Kobi Yamada, as well as middle school math teacher Meg Shortell, Kelly Herrington, Director of College Counseling and Student Services, and myself, as an ex officio member.

Following a national, comprehensive, four-month search process, supported by the search firm Spencer Stuart, **I am delighted to announce that the Board of Trustees has unanimously voted Veronica ("Ronnie") Codrington-Cazeau to serve as UPrep's fourth Head of School, starting July 1, 2020.**

Ronnie brings over 25 years of leadership experience in independent schools, currently serving as the Head of School at Evergreen School in Seattle. Throughout her career, Ronnie has brought a student-centric focus to all that she does, as well as a deep commitment to serving a diverse community. Ronnie previously served in senior leadership and teaching positions at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles and The Park School in Brookline, Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Wellesley College and a M.S. in Educational Leadership from Pepperdine University. Ronnie has extensive local and national board experience, currently serving on the board of trustees of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Overlake School Board of Trustees and the Downtown School Advisory Board.

In 1995, Ronnie was recruited from The Park School to the Harvard-Westlake School, where she served in a number of administrative roles during her 17-year tenure and was a leader in the community on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. Her experience includes serving as Summer Enrichment Program Director, Associate Director of Admissions, Academic Dean, and six years as Middle School Director. During her four years at The Park School, Ronnie taught and served as the Curriculum Coordinator of Diversity, where she revised the program to include multicultural themes.

Since 2012, Ronnie has served as the Head at The Evergreen School, a preschool through 8th grade school in north Seattle that serves 475 students with more than 100 faculty and staff. Ronnie is credited with collaborating with the community through the development of the school's 2015 strategic plan, which covers curriculum, diversity, accessibility, institutional leadership and financial sustainability. While at Evergreen, she led major construction projects and completed a \$20 million capital campaign.

While Ronnie is a self-described "Army brat", who traveled the world as a young girl, she attended high school at Boston Latin, a public exam school in Boston. She currently resides in North Seattle with her husband and high school age son and daughter.

Ronnie will spend the 2019-20 school year mentoring her Evergreen successor and spending time on the UPrep campus getting to know our community. The Board of Trustees is working to identify a seasoned external candidate to serve as UPrep's interim Head of School next year. I will have more information to share with you after spring break.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the entire search committee for their leadership and focused work, and especially to Tori and Laura for their commitment to a thoughtful and inclusive process. I also want to thank each member of our community for your participation in the search process, including your completion of the school-wide survey and attendance at the listening sessions.

This is an exciting time at UPrep as we launch our Commons Transformation, embark on our second round of intensives, and welcome our newest families into our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of UPrep and all that you do to make our community so special. As always, please feel free to reach out to me (BoardChair@universityprep.org) with any questions or concerns.

In partnership,

Cheryl Scott
Chair, Board of Trustees