



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Meredith Smith
director@ceefcares.org
408-252-3000 x485

Cupertino Educational Endowment Foundation Appoints Meredith Smith as New Executive Director

CUPERTINO, CA – September 5, 2017- Cupertino Educational Endowment Foundation (CEEFF), dedicated to providing funding for science, technology, music and art to support more than 18,000 students attending elementary and middle schools in Cupertino Union School District, today announces the appointment of Meredith Smith as Executive Director. Smith succeeds Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani who previously served on the Board of Directors and held the position of Executive Director at CEEF.

“As a past CUSD parent and PTA leader, Meredith appreciates the first-rate and well-rounded education provided by the dedicated administration and staff at CUSD. She also understands the ongoing funding challenges the District faces to maintain this level of excellence and CEEF’s vital role in filling some of the funding gaps. We welcome Meredith’s fresh insights and experienced guidance as we look for new and creative ways to support CUSD,” said Karen Rizkalla, president of Board of Directors for CEEF.

“At the same time we welcome Meredith and look to the future of CEEF, we acknowledge that we would not be where we are without the exceptional service, dedication and leadership of Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani,” added Rizkalla. “For the past five years, Lisa has consistently worked hard to ensure that the organization she leaves behind is best positioned for a bright and stable future that continues to support thousands of students each year.”

Smith joins CEEF from JW House where she was the Development and Marketing Director. Prior to this, Smith was Director of Marketing for the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce where her responsibilities included managing the Sunnyvale Art & Wine Festival for four years. Smith has also held positions at NBC Bay Area and Intel Corporation and has led fundraising events for other local non-profits and schools. Smith is an active volunteer serving on the Board of Directors at Stockmeir Elementary School PTA, Pets in Need and currently Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley. Smith received a Bachelor of Science degree at Santa Clara University.

“It is ironic that in such a vibrant, innovative and affluent community, our public schools are underfunded. But this is the reality. I look forward to working with the District, CUSD parents, business owners, residents and the community at large to find creative ways to fill the funding gaps,”

said Meredith Smith, executive director of CEEF. “Our CUSD students are our future leaders and innovators and deserve a well-rounded education that includes art and music to enrich their creative minds.”

About CEEF:

CEEF contributes private philanthropy to bridge critical gaps in public education funding and enhance classroom education for the TK-8 Cupertino Union School District (CUSD). CEEF has invested more than \$17 million since 1984 to maintain excellent Cupertino schools. For more information, please visit www.ceefcares.org or call (408) 252-3000 x484. CEEF is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization. Tax I.D. number 77-0073617.

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