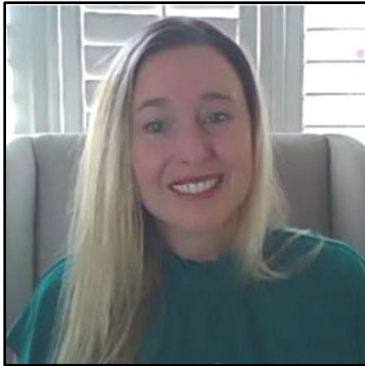




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The Mayor's Fund for Education Announces New Chief Impact Officer – Whitney Leathers



Long Beach, CA – The Mayor's Fund for Education (Mayor' Fund) proudly announces the hiring of education expert, Whitney Leathers, as their new Chief Impact Officer. Starting early July 2021, Leathers will utilize her extensive experience in early childcare, education systems building, and partnerships to propel the cradle-to-career system work of the Mayor's Fund.

"Whitney is an exceptional visionary and advocate for young children and families. She is a strong leader who values collaboration and the strength found in a wholistic community approach. When considering potential candidates to help us achieve our mission, build sustainable systems, and facilitate equitable access to quality education outcomes for all students, we would be hard-pressed to find someone more qualified than Whitney." – Karissa Selvester, Mayor's Fund Executive Director

Leathers brings with her a 20-year career in early childhood education and nonprofit management. Having previously served as Executive Director for Long Beach Day Nursery (LBDN), a premier Nationally Accredited Early Childhood program, she is well versed in leading a high-quality direct service education institution, education funding streams, and the unique needs of young children and their families throughout Long Beach. Before her tenure at LBDN Leathers served as Executive Director for the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) where she led a team of professionals and volunteers through significant organization growth focusing on partnerships, advocacy and policy work at the state and national levels, workforce development, and early childhood systems building. Leathers has served as the Board Chair of the Long Beach ECE Committee since 2017 where she has played a key role elevating the importance of early childhood education locally, served on the Cities ECE Strategic Plan Steering Committee, and restructured the organization to better align with current needs of our community.

"I'm honored to have been selected for this role," said Leathers. "The Mayor's Fund has an exceptional reputation as a partner in our Long Beach education community and I'm excited to join the team, return to systems-building work, and broaden my focus beyond early education to be inclusive of the entire cradle to career spectrum. I look forward to working in this new capacity to build upon the current momentum and strong partnerships supporting Long Beach's students and families."

In her role at The Mayor's Fund, Leathers will elevate strategic partnerships and increase our collective impact across the city from cradle to career. This will include an initial focus on:

- COVID response and recovery for early childcare providers and families

- Strategic Partnerships such as: Long Beach All Children Thrive, Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee, and the LBUSD P-3 Collaborative
- Mayor’s Fund family support programs (such as ReadyRosieLB)
- Long Beach Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan implementation
- Long Beach Workforce Development (particularly early education workforce)
- Long Beach Mayor’s Internship Challenge

“Whitney is a proven education leader in Long Beach. Throughout her tenure with the Long Beach Day Nursery and as Chair of the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee, Whitney has developed effective strategies to meet the need of our youngest residents. Combining her expertise with the systems-building work of the Mayor’s Fund will yield significant advances for local students and families.” – Mark Taylor, Mayor’s Fund Board of Director Chair

The Mayor’s Fund for Education (Mayor’ Fund) is a nonprofit separate from the City of Long Beach, serving the City of Long Beach and, more broadly, the students of the Long Beach Unified School District. The mission of the Mayor’s Fund is to collaborate with community, civic, and education partners to help address the most pressing needs facing Long Beach area students and their families. The Fund offers community-wide programs and amplifies efforts of local education stakeholders to provide a cradle-to-career approach ensuring all students have access to educational pathways and careers resulting in a vibrant local economy. Its three primary Impact Areas are: Early Childhood Education, Internships, and College Completion.

In the past year, Mayor’s Fund efforts have continued to benefit Long Beach area students and their families. ReadyRosieLB, one of its signature programs, provides over 7,500 registered users with high-quality, in-home early learning resources. As a part of its COVID Response and Recovery effort, the Mayor’s Fund has also served an average of 1,100 children weekly, distributing millions of essential infant care supplies, PPE, and cleaning materials.

The Mayor’s Fund is a non-profit organization, operating under the umbrella of Community Partners pending receipt of its separate 501(c)(3) designation. Funding is provided by donations from private individuals, corporations and philanthropic foundations and is overseen by an independent Board of Directors.

For more information and the latest developments on the Mayor’s Fund for Education, visit: www.mayorsfundfored.org and follow the LB Mayor’s Fund for Education on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@LBmayorsfund4ED).

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