

Natasha Trivers Appointed CEO of Democracy Prep Public Schools

Succeeds respected predecessor Katie Duffy

NEW YORK (April 30, 2019) -- The Board of Directors of Democracy Prep Public Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Natasha Trivers as the Chief Executive Officer of Democracy Prep Public Schools, the third individual to hold this position in the organization's 14 year history. After learning from Katie Duffy of her intention to resign as CEO, the Democracy Prep Public School's Board of Directors aligned on Ms. Trivers as an incredibly strong candidate to be the next CEO of Democracy Prep Public Schools. Following a rigorous interview process, where Ms. Trivers presented her vision for the organization, the Board unanimously voted to appoint her to the role.

Natasha joined Democracy Prep in 2011 as Assistant Principal of Democracy Prep Charter High School (DPCHS). In 2013, Natasha took the helm as Principal of DPCHS, and under her leadership the school expanded its Advanced Placement course offerings, improved Regents exam results, and increased the number of graduates annually, as well as the number of acceptances to Tier 1 colleges. In 2017, Natasha was promoted to Democracy Prep's Superintendent where she has overseen the implementation and success of the academic program across all 21 schools in the Democracy Prep network. Prior to joining Democracy Prep, Natasha taught English at Academy of the Pacific Rim Charter High School in Boston, Massachusetts. Natasha graduated from Rutgers University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in English. She also earned a Master's degree in English Education from Teachers College in 2002 and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Simmons College in 2012. Natasha was born in Santa Cruz, California and raised in Brooklyn and Queens, NY. She attended public schools her whole life and has made a deep commitment to change educational outcomes for low-income students in America.

During her tenure at Democracy Prep, Natasha has earned the respect of scholars and staff, and her graduates from the flagship Democracy Prep Charter High School comprise the first cohort of Teacher Residents who are working as teachers in some of the New York schools while earning their master's degrees. Other graduates hold operations positions in various schools, and a few hold full-time positions at the CMO main office.

Dr. Robert North, Chairman of the Democracy Prep New York Board, said, "We welcome Natasha as our new leader. We have great expectations for her guidance as the DP network moves forward. She has been an outstanding Superintendent who has elevated student performance at all of our schools. We look forward to outstanding leadership from Natasha as she confronts the challenges that she has assumed."

Katie Duffy, who served as CEO until her recent resignation, played an integral part of Democracy Prep since its first school was created in 2006. She successfully led the first charter-to-charter turnaround in New York State.

Ryan Offutt, Chairman of Democracy Prep Public Schools board of directors said, "As one of Democracy Prep's founders, Katie embodied our mission to Change the World. We are grateful for her hard work and dedication to educating all scholars."

During Katie's tenure as CEO, Democracy Prep Public Schools became a national charter network, serving 6,500 students in five regions. Katie also worked tirelessly to ensure special education services and accommodations at Democracy Prep were as robust as possible. For example, Pathways was founded in 2015 as a response to the fact that there is no group at greater risk than low-income students with disabilities. Today, Pathways not only provides a great education for scholars with disabilities, but it partners with Democracy Prep middle schools in order to ensure that scholars with disabilities get robust services in the most inclusive setting possible when they return to their home schools.

"Natasha is the leader that Democracy Prep needs right now, and she will continue to excel as she has since joining Democracy Prep. It is with pride that I pass the baton to her capable hands," says Duffy.

Under Katie's leadership, the Democracy Prep civics program continued to grow and yield incredible outcomes. According to a recent Mathematica study, there is a "98 percent probability that enrolling in Democracy Prep produced a positive impact on voter registration, and a 98 percent probability that enrolling produced a positive impact on voting in the 2016 election." The study's second key finding is that "Democracy Prep increases the voter registration rates of its students by about 16 percentage points and increases the voting rates of its students by about 12 percentage points." In 2015, Katie exercised her own civic duty, testifying before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee of the U.S. Senate on fixing No Child Left Behind (<https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Duffy.pdf>)

520 Democracy Prep alums are now enrolled in college. 90% of alums are enrolled in college, with 83% enrolled in 4-year colleges and universities. 26.78% study at top-tier universities like Dartmouth, Yale, Brown, Princeton, Boston College, Kenyon, and Duke.

Katie was at the forefront of establishing a more generous childcare leave policy at Democracy Prep (8 weeks upon hire and 12 weeks after 24 months of employment) which includes both parents.

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