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**Santa Monica Education Foundation names
Mikko Sperber new Executive Director**

New leader shares excitement for role, Ed Foundation's mission

Santa Monica, Calif., August 18, 2022 – The Santa Monica Education Foundation Board of Directors has completed a nationwide search for the Foundation's next Executive Director with the appointment of veteran fundraising professional Mikko Sperber to the role. The search was initiated in April when incumbent Executive Director Linda Greenberg [announced her plans to retire](#) after 28 years of service.

Sperber comes to the Ed Foundation after serving most recently as the Managing Partner of Fundamental Strategy, a nonprofit management and fundraising advisory firm he founded. He has more than two decades of experience working with nonprofit organizations in the performing arts and education in Los Angeles and New York.

"I'm excited to join a community of people who are aligned in their desire to ensure that all students in Santa Monica's public schools receive a vibrant education rich with opportunities in and out of the classroom," Sperber stated. "I know that requires our philanthropy to supplement the District's funds so they can hire the staff and fund the programs that impact all students in Santa Monica's public schools."

Sperber is an active leader in the greater Los Angeles non-profit community. He has been heavily involved as a member of the Los Angeles County Equity in County Contracting Project Team for the past two years, working to streamline and improve contracting policies and practices for the benefit of all nonprofits who do business with the county.

He currently serves on the boards of directors of the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, and the Claremont Courier, respectively. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Board of Angel City Sports. Before founding Fundamental Strategy, Sperber's career in the nonprofit sector included work with the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, UCLA Anderson School of Management, and MPTF.

"The Santa Monica Education Foundation is lucky to have found Mikko," Ed Foundation Board President John Baracy shared. "His distinct passion, personality and thoughtfulness for fundraising over his career will translate immediately to benefit the students of the Santa Monica public schools. We look forward to the community getting to know Mikko in the very near future."

Sperber holds a Master's in Leadership, with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy, from the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy; an Executive Program certificate in General Management from the UCLA Anderson School of Management; and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University. He and his wife Jennifer have three sons.

"My family and I are so excited to get more deeply involved in the Santa Monica community and enjoy this incredible city," said Sperber.

Ed Foundation Board Finalizes Transition Plans

Sperber joins the Ed Foundation staff immediately and will work full-time with Greenberg in the coming weeks to learn the inner workings of the Ed Foundation and meet SMMUSD families and community members. He will officially assume the role of Executive Director effective September 9.

"I'm excited to inherit and continue the work Linda Greenberg and others have engaged in these many years," Sperber said. "The Ed Foundation has evolved from one that reacted to urgent needs to one that now looks to the future and moves strategically to ensure that funding will always be available for our community's educational priorities."

"Linda, the Ed Foundation staff and the Board of Directors – in partnership with the greater Santa Monica community – have ensured this organization is on solid footing," Sperber continued. "That will allow us to support the growth Superintendent Drati and all the leaders of Santa Monica's public schools envision for our students."

Greenberg will remain involved with the Ed Foundation even beyond her planned retirement date of September 9, providing her wealth of experience and community contacts as resources to Sperber as he assumes the Executive Director's role.

"One of the many great legacies of Linda's leadership of this organization over nearly three decades will be her incredible relationships throughout our community," Baracy said. "We are so fortunate and grateful to have her expertise and her commitment to this organization continue even as she transitions toward a well-earned retirement."

Baracy noted that a celebration of Greenberg's career and impact on Santa Monica's public schools will be scheduled for later this fall.

"We look forward to honoring Linda in the coming weeks with a lasting recognition of her incredible impact."

These plans are now in discussion and will be shared in the coming weeks.

About the Santa Monica Education Foundation

Established in 1982 in response to devastating federal and state education budget cuts, the Santa Monica Education Foundation was organized by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners to enhance and supplement school curriculum. The mission of the Education Foundation is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all students in the Santa Monica public schools. For more about the Ed Foundation, visit www.smedfoundation.org.

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