



Blue Sky Fund Transitions Executive Leadership

The Organization Will Continue To Serve Over 2,200 Students Throughout the 2018-2019 School Year

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Richmond, Virginia - The Blue Sky Fund Board of Directors announced Thursday that David Kunnen has resigned as Executive Director after accepting the position of Director of Leadership Annual Giving Programs in VCU's Department of Development and Alumni Relations.

Blue Sky Fund helps low-income children from the City of Richmond improve academic achievement, especially in the sciences, through active outdoor education. Kunnen took over as Executive Director in 2016, following a ten-year term served by the founding Executive Director, Lawson Wijesooriya. Over the past three years, Blue Sky Fund has expanded its program reach from about 800 students to over 2,200 urban youth from our community's most underprivileged neighborhoods, resulting in a budget increase from \$460,000 to \$758,000 to meet the needs of providing resources for quality education and access to nature to a greater number of children.

Programming will continue as planned throughout the 2018-19 school year to ensure that students across Richmond receive experiential outdoor education that is proven to enrich the students' academic experience and develop resiliency, a key factor in overcoming adverse child events.

"We are confident in the mission and direction of Blue Sky Fund, and the ability of our staff and Board of Directors to fulfill operations focused on delivering the powerful impact that our programming has on Richmond's children," shared Matt Perry, President of the Blue Sky Fund Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has appointed Operations Director, Amanda Payne, to serve as Interim Executive Director while an internal search committee secures the organization's next Executive Director. Payne is well equipped to direct Blue Sky Fund programming after six years with the organization and working closely with community partners.

Blue Sky Fund is a local non-profit organization providing transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education. The organization was founded in 2007 as the need became clear to increase inner-city kids' exposure to nature and active physical engagement in outdoor activities. Blue Sky Fund's three core programs Explorers, Outdoor Adventure Clubs, Outdoor Leadership Institute both help children achieve academic success, especially in the sciences, through active outdoor education that is appropriate for their current science curriculum, and develop character and leadership through outdoor experiences that expand horizons, increase confidence, and build collaboration skills. Learn more at www.blueskyfund.org.

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