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Meet Karn Engelsgjerd + team transitions

Dear Partner,

I'd like to officially introduce you to the newest member of the Great MN Schools team: Karn Engelsgjerd, director of development.

Karn comes to Great MN Schools with more than 20 years of K-12 education experience, ranging from teaching fourth grade—she was awarded Teacher of the Year at Forest Heights Elementary in Baton Rouge, La.—to supporting strong classroom instruction as ANet's vice president of networks. Through our work with ANet, Karn has been a close partner as we collectively support schools with Good-to-Great implementation. And spanning her time there and as a national leader of program at Teach For America, she has effectively cultivated and developed relationships to advance the mission and work of the organization so that schools work for all students. Karn and her family live in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis—I invite you to [reach out to get to know Karn!](#)



We're also saying farewell to two team members who are embarking on new endeavors.

Kristen McKittrick—our director of development for the past three years—has been accepted into Medtronic's Leadership Development Rotation Program after recently completing her MBA. During her time at Great MN Schools, Kristen successfully doubled the number of donors and expanded revenue opportunities to grow the number of schools in our portfolio and deepen work with community partners. She also built meaningful opportunities for funders to engage in our work, and demonstrated leadership internally by helping establish our team's organizational values and team culture.

And Cay Kimbrell, our director of talent, has committed four years to engineering a K-12 ecosystem that includes expanded pathways to the teaching profession for people of color and introducing best-in-class providers, such as TNTP, ANet, and EdFuel, to improve how schools support teachers and effective instruction. Cay built communities of practice to complement this, strengthening how school leaders attract, develop, and retain great teachers. Looking ahead, Cay is excited to deepen her work to foster strategic partnerships toward systems that work for all members of our community.

The programs, communities of practice, and partnerships Cay built will continue to be an active part of our work here at Great MN Schools.

I know on behalf of our team, our board of directors, and many partners, we're so appreciative of Kristen's and Cay's contributions and their commitment to more great schools for our city's children!

Here's to a safe and relaxing 4th of July holiday,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Stern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Stern
CEO, Great MN Schools