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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTERN: CFA ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy ("Western: CFA") is excited to welcome Dr. Tamela Harris, who will become the school's new Superintendent on July 1, 2024. Dr. Harris replaces Superintendent Makowske, who is stepping down after leading Western: CFA for the past four years.

Dr. Tamela Harris's career uniquely combines her scientific and educational expertise. Following her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, she initially worked as a chemist in quality control at Johnson Products in Chicago. She then transitioned into education as a science teacher, where she applied her scientific knowledge to enrich student learning. Her journey as a middle school principal for six years deepened her understanding of classroom dynamics. Her deep understanding of classroom challenges and student-teacher interactions gained there led her to higher leadership roles. As Deputy Superintendent, she oversaw 13 Arizona Legacy Traditional Schools, further developing her administrative capabilities. Tamela then elevated to Associate Superintendent, supervising all Deputy Superintendents across the Legacy Traditional Schools network. This role exemplified her ability to manage complex educational systems. In her recent position as Senior Director of Academic Leadership/Associate Superintendent at Legacy Traditional Schools in Nevada and Texas, she demonstrated strategic prowess in managing academic content, federal programs, and grants. Tamela's academic pursuits, including her Doctor of Education and a Master of Education, complement her practical experience and dedication to systemic change and research-based educational policies.

The Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome Dr. Harris to campus and confident that she will lead the school to fulfill its vision to be the first "A"-rated public high school in the Maryvale community. "Western has been fortunate to have great leaders since the very beginning. Each has been the right leader at the right time. It is clear to me that Dr. Harris is ideally suited to successfully lead Western in the next chapter of the school's academic growth and student success beyond graduation," states Board President Mr. Jay Kaprosy.

Dr. Harris is dedicated to the mission and vision of Western: CFA: "My heart has been overflowing with joy from witnessing the deep connections among family, friends, and the community here at Western. The unity and support that I have seen are truly inspiring." Dr. Harris is excited to continue Western: CFA traditions such as Warrior Meeting, AVID, sports programming, and Cafecitos. "These traditions represent some of the best parts of our Warrior culture and I am excited to participate in them moving forward."

"Western: CFA is fortunate to have such an experienced educational leader coming on board as our next superintendent. After working side-by-side for the past month, I am confident that Dr. Harris will lead us to reach our goals and our vision," stated Ms. Makowske.

Western: CFA was founded in 2014 with the explicit vision of being the first "A"-rated public high school in the Maryvale community. Since it opened, it has indeed been the highest-performing high school in the Maryvale neighborhood.

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