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Princeton-Blairstown Elects Three New Officers for 2016

Princeton, NJ – January 14, 2016 -- The Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC) elected three new officers, Sarah Tantillo, Ed.D, of Belmar, NJ – Board Chair, Pamela L. Simpkins, of Ringoes, NJ – Vice Chair, and Timothy Downs, of Bucks County, PA – Treasurer, to their Board of Trustees. PBC's Board of Trustees is a highly committed group of individuals, from diverse backgrounds, responsible for setting policy and overseeing the organization's fiduciary commitments. All three new officers will bring passion and new perspective to Princeton-Blairstown Center, and their unique backgrounds align with PBC's mission as well as their vision for the new year.

Sarah Tantillo is the creator of *The Literacy Cookbook* (www.literacycookbook.com) and author of the book, *The Literacy Cookbook: A Practical Guide to Effective Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening Instruction* and *Literacy and the Common Core: Recipes for Action*. She has consulted in New Jersey and nationally with schools seeking to improve student achievement since 2007, with an emphasis on urban schools. Sarah taught high school English and Humanities in both suburban and urban New Jersey public schools for 14 years, including seven years at the high-performing North Star Academy Charter School of Newark, where she chaired the Humanities Department in which her students achieved a 100% passing rate on the Language Arts/Literacy section of the HSPA in 2006 and 2007. She also founded and directed the New Jersey Charter School Resource Center from 1996-1999 and the New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association from 1999-2003. She coaches K-12 schools on literacy instruction, data-driven instruction, interdisciplinary curriculum development, school culture-building, and strategic planning.

She has studied at Princeton (B.A. '87), Harvard (M.Ed. '91), Johns Hopkins (M.A. '95), and Rutgers (Ed.D. '01). Her dissertation was on culture formation in charter schools. She currently writes two blogs: *The Literacy Cookbook* (<http://theliteracycookbook.wordpress.com/>) and *Only Good Books* (<http://onlygoodbooks.wordpress.com/>).

Pam Simpkins is a strategy execution leader with over 17 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. She currently works at Janssen Pharmaceuticals where she leads the strategy and operations decision support efforts in pediatric clinical development. Prior to Janssen, Pam worked at Merck & Co., Inc. and Novo Nordisk, where she held leadership



positions supporting Research & Development, Regulatory, Corporate Strategy and Global Finance. In these roles, she led business support activities such as objective setting and measurement, financial planning, business development, project management, competitive intelligence, and process improvement.

Pam has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S. in Business Administration from SUNY Albany. She has attained a number of globally recognized certifications in business. Other than the work Pam does in support of PBC, she is the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout Troop and a Girl Scout Gold Award candidate advisor. She is a guest lecturer at Rutgers Business School, focused on strategy and innovation, and was a part-time lecturer there. A product of an inner-city childhood, Pam brings passion and perspective to PBC. This, coupled with her education, business experience and other volunteer efforts in education, positions her to add great value to PBC in the coming years.

Tim Downs is the Director of Princeton University Facilities Finance and Administrative Services – a post he has held since 2012. In that capacity, Tim manages the operating budget, the major maintenance budget, and the multi-billion dollar capital projects budget for the University community, with responsibility for all business operations, procurement, and information technology. Prior to joining Princeton University, Tim was President of the Sanford Brown Institute – a career-focused, post-secondary educational institution providing opportunities to a diverse student population. He has worked in a series of financial management posts starting in 1992 with J.P. Morgan Chase in New York City.

Tim recently served on the board and was chairman of the financial review committee of the Pennsylvania Department of Education State Board of Private Licensed Schools. Tim received a B.B.A. from Temple University and an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from the University of Delaware.

About Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC)

PBC seeks to transform the lives of vulnerable young people through integrated experiential and adventure-based programming in schools and at our outdoor campus. What began in 1908 as a summer camp run by Princeton University students to give inner-city boys an opportunity to have a character-building fresh air experience has evolved into a wide variety of year-round youth development experiential educational programs serving over 5,200 students from the Mid-Atlantic States. For more information on PBC's services or to donate, visit www.princetonblairstowncenter.org.

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