City Forward Collective launches with Dr. Patricia Hoben as executive

PAVE + STCM relaunching with new name; new model prioritizing family and community organizing to increase access to quality schools

MILWAUKEE – School support nonprofit PAVE + STCM announced today it is relaunching as ‘City Forward Collective,’ and will operate with a new organizational vision led by Dr. Patricia Hoben.

“The children of our city deserve more and faster progress,” said Leslie Dixon, City Forward Collective board co-chair and chief human resources officer at Baird. “After considerable due diligence and community input, the board of directors has identified a new model for how this organization can best move our city forward for all students – and Dr. Hoben is the right leader for this work.”

Prior to joining City Forward Collective this month, Hoben served as founding chief executive officer of the nationally acclaimed Carmen Schools of Science and Technology. The network operates three high schools, two middle schools and an elementary school serving more than 1,800 Milwaukee students.

Hoben’s hiring was the result of a months-long nationwide search that led the City Forward Collective board of directors back to Milwaukee.

“Dr. Hoben has a distinguished career of leadership at the federal, state and local levels, including more than a decade heading one of Milwaukee’s strongest school networks,” said John Grogan, City Forward Collective board co-chair and executive vice president at Northwestern Mutual. “She has a strong record of setting up new organizations and designing strategy. We couldn’t be happier or more excited about this pick.”

Hoben is assuming daily leadership of the organization after several months spent working with the organization’s board and staff on a volunteer basis to assist with strategic planning.

“The City Forward Collective model has the potential to make significant, positive, lasting change for our city and its families,” Hoben said. “We’re building on the strengths of PAVE + STCM to create something new that meets the needs Milwaukee has right now.”

The ‘City Forward Collective’ name was chosen to communicate the need for dramatic improvement to Milwaukee’s education ecosystem as a means of advancing the city as a whole – its quality of life, its economic success and its readiness for the future.
“Eliminating our city’s educational inequities will require all of us – all neighborhoods, all political ideologies, all school sectors – to work collectively,” Hoben said.

City Forward Collective will prioritize community organizing aimed at giving Milwaukee students, parents and other communities a true voice in education. The strategy will focus on increasing the number of quality school seats available to Milwaukee families. It will incorporate best practices from organizations in cities that have gained national recognition and momentum as they have improved outcomes for students. Examples include the Mind Trust in Indianapolis, Innovate Public Schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and Education Forward DC in Washington, D.C.

In Milwaukee, an independent steering committee representing communities from across the city met for nine months to determine how City Forward Collective could best work to improve education outcomes for the city. The committee’s work serves as the foundation for the organization’s new strategy, which includes five key areas:

- **Family and community organizing**: Engaging in sustained organizing of families and communities to build a collective of city residents who understand and advocate for high-quality schools across Milwaukee
- **Community-informed policy**: Identifying and advocating for policies that eliminate educational inequities and ensure high-quality schools get the resources they need to thrive
- **Diverse governance**: Greatly increasing the number of leaders of color actively engaged in efforts to improve Milwaukee schools – especially in service on the governance boards of schools and education support organizations
- **Effective and representative talent**: Ensuring strong pipelines for teachers and school leaders, with an explicit focus on new strategies to increase the number of teachers and leaders of color and build cultural competence among our city’s educators
- **Quality schools**: Establishing an investment fund that will aggregate and strategically invest philanthropic dollars and liaise with national philanthropies to expand and replicate existing quality schools, support proven leaders as they incubate education support organizations or new schools, and provide targeted support to improve promising schools

The relaunched organization will work with all school types – district, charter and private – with a mission to eliminate educational inequities and ensure more great schools for the families who need them most. The organization plans to share more details about its new strategy throughout 2019.

**ABOUT DR. HOBEN:** Dr. Patricia Hoben has worked in federal science, technology and public health policy; molecular biology and biochemistry research; nonprofit management; and science education philanthropy. She also led a city-wide science education reform initiative in Minneapolis. Most recently, Dr. Hoben served as the founding chief executive officer for Carmen Schools of Science and Technology, a nationally recognized network of college and career preparatory public charter schools including three high schools, two middle schools and an elementary school. Dr. Hoben holds a doctorate in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University.

*For more information, visit [http://cityforwardcollective.org](http://cityforwardcollective.org), [http://pave.org](http://pave.org), [http://stcmilwaukee.org](http://stcmilwaukee.org), or contact Isral DeBruin by phone at (414) 459-1894 or by email at isral.debruin@stcmilwaukee.org.*

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