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College Forward Names New Board Members

Two Additions Bring Wealth of Management Experience to Nonprofit

AUSTIN, TX – College Forward, a nonprofit providing college access and persistence services to economically disadvantaged students, appointed Tracy Benedict and Paul Brownell to its board of directors.

Tracy Benedict is a CPA and Senior Manager at Ernst & Young LLP in Austin. She earned her MPA and BBA in accounting from the University of Texas at Austin. Tracy is a member of several professional organizations, including the Texas Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs. She is a proponent of helping students achieve a college education, volunteered as a mentor with various youth programs and works with several universities in her capacity as a campus recruiter.

Paul Brownell is a Principal at Growth Acceleration Partners, a management consulting and software development outsourcing company. Paul specializes in developing business strategies, leading change and implementing world-class software practices. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Tennessee with a B.S. in electrical engineering. Paul is the past president of The Next to New Shop, an Austin-based retail consignment store whose proceeds go to local charities.

"We're excited to announce the recent additions to our board," said College Forward's Founder and Executive Director Lisa Fielder. "Tracy and Paul bring an abundance of management experience, along with a demonstrated commitment to serving the community, to College Forward at a time when our organization is experiencing fast-paced growth. Their insights are a tremendous resource for accomplishing the mission of ensuring every one of our students obtains a college degree."

This year, College Forward expanded its services to four new high schools. The organization now reaches 11 high schools across seven districts in Central Texas. In each school the nonprofit teams economically disadvantaged juniors and seniors with trained coaches, who assist students with preparing college entrance exams, completing applications and gaining financial literacy. Students continue to receive support of the organization, including help securing financial aid, throughout their college career.

ABOUT COLLEGE FORWARD: College Forward provides college access and college persistence services to motivated, economically-disadvantaged students, in order to facilitate their transition to college and make the process exciting and rewarding. We believe that access to higher education is the right of every young Texan. www.collegeforward.org



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