



Flagstaff Arts &
Leadership Academy
Celebrating 25 Years

FALA Directors Implement Leadership Changes for FALA

FALA's Board of Directors seated two new Directors, hired a new School Improvement Specialist and will dismiss the current Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flagstaff, AZ. - The Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy announces changes to its leadership structure in an effort to improve organizational effectiveness and enhance the excellent learning experience for all students.

Referencing recent challenges with teacher attrition, the board has taken comprehensive action to expand expertise and input by appointing new board members, Jim Burton and Isaac Hayes, and an experienced School Improvement Specialist, Kara Kelty. To learn more about Directors Burton and Hayes as well as Ms. Kelty, please visit FALA's [website here](#).

"I recognize this has been a very difficult time for the FALA community", FALA Board President James Yih said. "As the president of the board I am ultimately responsible for the current state of affairs and I apologize to current and former faculty for the work environment that has distracted from FALA's mission. Furthermore, I am committed to FALA's future success by ensuring that FALA's Habits of Hands, Heart, and Mind transcend through our entire organization from students to the Board of Directors once again."

During the leadership transition, FALA's School Improvement Specialist Kara Kelty, will be overseeing FALA's day to day operations while working collaboratively with teachers, students, families and board members to update FALA's strategic plan. "FALA is a community treasure," said Ms. Kelty. "I have worked in many school environments, and I am impressed with the school culture, student engagement, and teachers' expertise and dedication to their students."

"We are all committed to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure FALA can carry out its mission," Mr. Yih said. "With robust experience in education and the non-profit sector, Ms. Kelty is skilled at program design, implementation, and measuring outcomes. As FALA continues to recover from the challenges of the pandemic and its impact on teacher



retention, we felt it necessary to bring in an outsider with knowledge of the community who can evaluate our strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations to improve our stability and our offerings to students.”

FALA serves 255 students in grades 6-12. FALA is an inclusive and transformative learning community that cultivates creativity and critical inquiry and provides opportunity for experiential service learning. The FALA Habits of Hands, Heart, and Mind are five values or ways of being that guide students throughout their time at FALA and beyond. These include Common Good, Connection and Collaboration; Investment, Creativity and Critical Inquiry. In the classroom, during performances, by doing service, during personal interactions, or through creative projects, students at FALA embrace and embody these Habits and faculty and staff at FALA use these habits to guide their educational decisions and practices.

For more information, visit FALA’s website at www.flagarts.com

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