



**\*\*For Immediate Release\*\***

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## **Shawn Gerth Tapped to Lead Educare California at Silicon Valley**

*Experienced education administrator to revitalize early learning center's advocacy, services and partnerships for low-income families*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — **Educare California at Silicon Valley**, a high-quality early learning school that narrows the opportunity gap for low-income children, today announced that **Shawn Gerth** will step into the role of **executive director** on Sept. 3.

"Shawn Gerth's experience, leadership and deep passion for education will help us carry the mission of serving young children and their families even further," said Educare California at Silicon Valley board chair **Shannon Hunt-Scott**. "She is committed to creating brighter futures for children in one of the highest-need communities in Silicon Valley and ensuring they have the best opportunities for success in life. Shawn has the right blend of energy, vision and strategy to activate bold new initiatives that will generate an even greater impact on the communities we serve."

As a research-based model early learning program, Educare delivers free education, services and supportive resources to over 1,200 low-income children ages 0-5 and their families and caregivers in the Santee community of East San Jose each year. Educare operates 12 high-quality, full-day, year-round early learning classrooms, a family resource center, satellite public library, satellite children's museum, and a Professional Development Institute to scale up best practices for early educators. The Educare model focuses on high-quality instruction, intensive family engagement to promote parent-child relationships, ongoing professional learning for staff and continuous data collection to inform quality improvement efforts.

Gerth plans to put Educare California at Silicon Valley at the forefront of policy discussions around issues affecting young children and their families, as well as strengthen the organization's funding and service partnerships.

"I'm honored to have been chosen to serve as the next executive director of Educare California at Silicon Valley," **Gerth** said. "San Jose is my home, and after working with some of the area's highest-need students since 1999, I'm excited to turn my focus to early childhood education. High-quality early childhood education is the most effective way to close the achievement gap, and I am thrilled to join a team of hard-working, dedicated educators working to transform the lives of students in East San Jose."

(MORE)

Gerth began her teaching career at Independence High School and then joined Downtown College Prep (DCP), where she later became the school's first academic dean and built the organization's human resources and operations functions. She went on to lead ACE Charter Schools as the executive director, where she played an integral role in the school's expansion from one to four schools.

Educare's board of directors unanimously voted to appoint Gerth to this critical leadership role after an exhaustive national search. "The board of Educare California at Silicon Valley is thrilled," **Hunt-Scott** said, "to welcome Shawn Gerth as our new executive director.'

In addition to holding degrees and certificates from Duke University, Stanford University and UC Berkeley, Ms. Gerth cultivates her leadership and community involvement as a Senior Fellow at the American Leadership Forum and a member of the Rotary Club of San Jose.

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### **About Educare California at Silicon Valley**

Educare California at Silicon Valley serves over 1,200 children ages 0 to 5 and their families and caregivers in a model early learning school each year. It houses 12 high-quality early learning classrooms, a family resource center, a satellite children's museum, and a Professional Development Institute. Learn more about Educare California at Silicon Valley at [educaresv.org](http://educaresv.org), and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Educare California at Silicon Valley is one of 24 schools in the national Educare network. Educare schools have four research-based components: high-quality instruction, intensive family engagement to promote parent-child relationships, ongoing professional learning for staff and continuous data collection to inform quality improvement efforts. Educare schools are located in urban, suburban and rural communities in 16 states and the District of Columbia. Each Educare school offers full-day, full-year programming from highly qualified staff.

A [study published in 2017 in \*Child Development\*](#) found that the high-quality, center-based early childhood education offered at schools in the national Educare network, which includes Educare California at Silicon Valley, has a positive impact on the development of financially disadvantaged infants and toddlers. The study found that Educare children after one year of enrollment, at approximately age 2, had significantly higher English language skills, fewer parent reports of problem behaviors and more positive parent-child interactions than children who did not attend Educare.