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DATE: May 12, 2021

New principals announced for Escondido High School and Del Lago Academy

Escondido, CA - At the May 11, 2021 Escondido Union High School District Board of Education meeting, the governing board named Kristin Burch Kalish and Jason Jacobs incoming principals for Del Lago Academy and Escondido High, respectively. Each will begin their new role July 1, 2021. Kalish will assume the responsibility after current Del Lago Academy principal Dr. Ruth Hellams retires at the end of the school year. Jacobs has been acting as the interim Escondido High principal since April and will be replacing Dr. Adriana Lepe-Ramirez, who was recently named Director of Assessment and Accountability for the district.

**About Kristin Burch Kalish**

Kalish is a founding member of the leadership team for the Del Lago Academy, which opened in 2013. She began her career with the district in 2012.

As a founding member of the Del Lago leadership team, Kalish was instrumental in the development of the school's Core Values and Pillars that define the Del Lago Academy vision. In her role, she is responsible for providing training to educators, including Restorative Practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS). She has also been instrumental in coordinating ongoing culture building activities to promote a positive school climate. She is responsible for developing curriculum for the school-wide advisory program and has facilitated the Comprehensive Student Assistance Team (CSAT) to address barriers to learning. Over the years, she has provided case management and mental health services for scholars and families.

Kalish holds a bachelor's degree in Human Development from the University of California, San Diego and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She is a fluent Spanish speaker, an active member of the School Social Worker Association of America and the National Association of Social Workers, and has spoken at industry conferences.

"Kristi is a knowledgeable and student focused practitioner whose gives 100% of her efforts each and every day to supporting the success of her students," said Superintendent Dr. Anne Staffieri. "Her connection to the school, surrounding community, and proven track record make her the ideal choice for principal of the Del Lago Academy."



About Jason Jacobs

Jacobs is a 17-year veteran of Escondido High. He has served as assistant principal for the past six years and taught Social Science at the school for seven years prior to that. His tenure with the school began in 2004 as a football, basketball, and track coach.

As a teacher, he served as the Social Science Chair and PLC Lead where he guided teachers in curriculum implementation and articulation with middle schools. As an Assistant Principal, Jason led the math department through a transitional period in the conversion to integrated math and the use of inquiry-based teacher feedback loops. He is a member of the districtwide Equity Team. He took an active role in the development of several new programs, including Reset, an on-campus intervention program, and PBIS, a proactive approach to improve school safety and promote positive behavior with a focus on prevention. He has been

instrumental in building equitable master schedules with a focus on supporting all students graduate prepared for college, career, and life.

Jacobs holds an associate's degree in Political Science from Mira Costa College, a bachelor's degree in History from California State University San Marcos, and a master's degree in Education Leadership from Concordia University. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

"Jacobs is highly regarded by his colleagues and the Escondido High community," said Staffieri. "He encourages those around him to think outside the box, holds his colleagues to high expectations, and works diligently to make improvements to benefit Escondido High students."

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