



PRESS RELEASE

December 7, 2010

San Leandro Education Foundation announces appointments of full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and new board members for the 2010-11 school year.

[San Leandro, CA December 7, 2010] The San Leandro Education Foundation (SLED) announced today the appointment of Tessa Atkinson-Adams as SLED's full-time VISTA volunteer, and Faye Clements, Mike Pretto, and Lee Thomas to the Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 school year. Atkinson-Adams is a San Leandro schools' alumna. Clements, Pretto, and Thomas are San Leandro residents involved in various local community organizations.

"We are excited about the growth of our organization this month," said Board President Deborah Cox. "Having a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer will increase our organization's capacity to achieve results. Also, all three of our new board members bring a great deal of experience, talent and passion to the Board. Each is dedicated to improving opportunities and access to quality educational experiences for San Leandro children."

Tessa Atkinson-Adams is SLED's new full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer working as SLED's Project Coordinator, expanding and creating the structure and plans for all of SLED's programs. She grew up in San Leandro, attended Roosevelt, Bancroft, and San Leandro High. She is a graduate from UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Political Science, where she was a leader on education campaigns with CALPIRG all four years. Last year, she was a substitute teacher in San Leandro.

Faye Clements Caruso has lived in San Leandro for 20 years, and held sales and sales-management positions for nearly three decades. She is an active community member, participating in her neighborhood association (EHOA) for a number of years after first arriving here, working on several political campaigns over the years, spending the last nine years involved in her church, fundraising for Assumption and, recently, St. Joe's schools. She has also served on Assumption's School Board for the last seven. Faye believes that San Leandro offers an unmatched strong community and a healthy lifestyle conducive to raising balanced and happy children, and wants to help ensure that our schools are always closely aligning with these values and reflecting the best of San Leandro.

Mike Pretto has been a San Leandro resident since 1974. He was a San Leandro Planning Commissioner from 1979 to 1995 and in 1995 was co-chair of the "Yes on Measure D" campaign for San Leandro schools. Two of his grandchildren attend a San Leandro Unified School District school. He is employed by the City of Santa Clara, working on rate, financial, and legislative issues for their Electric Utility. He is deeply concerned about the lack of adequate funding for public schools and feels that the San Leandro Education Foundation can be a



valuable financial resource for needed projects and activities that cannot be funded through conventional revenue sources.

Lee Thomas moved to San Leandro in 2006. He currently works for the San Francisco Unified School District, but also has ten years of non-profit work with various organizations. He has involved himself in the San Leandro community by becoming President of the Floresta Homeowners Association, joining the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Marina re-development project, and serving as a Human Services Commissioner. He and his wife are proud parents of a 2 year old and a 4 month old. His hope in joining SLED is to help the schools become better funded as we enter into a decade with quickly changing technology and diminishing government budgets.

The San Leandro Education Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to raising resources and improving the lives and education of children in the San Leandro Unified School District (SLUSD). According to Jill Raimondi, Treasurer, SLED is also encouraging those with marketing or legal experience to volunteer or consider applying to the Board for the 2010-11 and/or 2011-12 school years. To learn more about SLED, please visit the website at www.sledfund.org, send an email to info@sledfund.org, or call 510.618.GIVE (4483).

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