

August 31, 2017

### **Seasoned nonprofit leader named executive director at East Palo Alto Academy Foundation**

East Palo Alto Academy Foundation (EPAAF) today appointed Elisabeth Landa, a seasoned nonprofit leader and advocate for underserved youth, as executive director. In this role, Landa will oversee operations and management, including fundraising, donor outreach and stewardship, all of which support the students and college-going graduates of East Palo Alto Academy (EPAA) high school.

Landa brings more than a decade of community commitment, strategic leadership and fundraising experience to the foundation. She joins EPAAF from Aspire Public Schools, where as Director of Development for the 11 Aspire schools in the Bay Area, she worked directly with students and families, advisory boards, foundations and community partners.

“Through her work, Liz has shown she shares East Palo Alto Academy's commitment to the vision that all students graduate ready for college, and empowered with the knowledge, skills and passion to positively impact their own lives and their community,” said Mindy Rogers, chair of EPAAF.

Over the last three years, Landa, who holds a master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the University of San Diego, has immersed herself in the East Palo Alto community. Her work at Aspire included overseeing major fundraising projects, day-to-day operations of specific departments, recruiting and supporting advisory boards.

Landa also has significant leadership experience at community service organizations, providing case management to at-risk youth and families at the San Diego CHOICE Program, and directing programs at Feeding America San Diego.

Landa's new role at EPAAF involves building and leading fundraising efforts for the high school and engaging the community, school district and donors in the effort to maintain EPAA's special programming, which has helped nearly all of its students graduate, with the great majority college-bound.

“I am honored to be joining the East Palo Alto Academy Foundation and to contribute to its mission of changing the lives of students and preparing them for college success,” Landa said. “I am genuinely excited to work collaboratively with the EPAAF board, EPAA students, staff, principal and the East Palo Alto community to continue the remarkable work that EPAAF has been doing for more than a decade.”

The funding support from EPAAF, formerly known as Stanford New Schools, enables EPAA to offer small classes, tailored instruction and social-emotional support. EPAAF also offers college scholarship opportunities to eligible EPAA graduates and employs a full-time college counselor to support alumni through college graduation.

The high school, a public charter in the Sequoia Union High School District, serves more than 300 students in grades 9-12 from East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. Nearly all students come from

low-income households and most will be the first in their families to graduate from high school and attend college.

### **About East Palo Alto Academy Foundation**

The East Palo Alto Academy Foundation is the non-profit education foundation dedicated solely to [East Palo Alto Academy \(EPAA\)](#) and the college aspirations of EPAA graduates. For more information, visit <https://epaaf.org>.