



Portland Schools Foundation

**June 12, 2008**  
**For immediate release**

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## **Portland Schools Foundation names Dan Ryan as CEO**

PORTLAND, Ore. (June 12, 2008) - By unanimous vote, the Portland Schools Foundation board today named Dan Ryan, a local education leader, not-for-profit fundraiser and community activist, as its new chief executive officer.

Ryan has been raising funds for non-profit organizations for the past 20 years, serving nine years as director of university development for Portland State University and the past two years as chief development officer with Oregon Ballet Theatre.

In 2005, Ryan was elected to the volunteer Portland Public Schools board of directors representing North Portland, and is just completing two years as co-chair. He plans to resign from the school board, effective June 30.

A 1980 graduate of Roosevelt High where he served as senior class president, Ryan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon and has done graduate work at New School University in New York. He is an active member of the Ainsworth United Church of Christ.

"Dan has a clear, demonstrated passion for improving educational opportunities for all of Portland's young people," said Karen Whitman, incoming Foundation board chair. "He has worked closely with the Foundation, the schools and our community partners. That, combined with his management experience, fundraising expertise and local connections, make him the perfect fit for leading the Foundation."

Board member Sarah Mensah, who co-chaired the search process with fellow member Kevin Lynch, agreed. "Dan has a well-deserved reputation for inclusiveness in working with diverse groups, including communities of color," she said.

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Ryan said the opportunity to serve as CEO of the Portland Schools Foundation was the perfect way to combine his career and community passions. “I have long admired the Foundation’s mission, and I look forward to extending its work in fundraising and community engagement in support of our kids,” he said. “While I will miss serving on the school board and working day-to-day with a rising arts organization at Oregon Ballet Theatre, I am eager to work closely with schools and community partners throughout Portland to help improve educational outcomes for all children.”

Ryan’s appointment follows a comprehensive, three-month search for a new CEO that engaged a wide array of stakeholders in the Foundation’s work, Whitman said. He will replace Fred Miller, who has served as acting CEO since February.

In addition to raising funds for local school funding campaigns, the Foundation distributes grants to local schools, including the First Octave Fund for Arts and Music and the Equity Fund Awards, underwritten by local school foundations. The Portland Schools Foundation also manages a number of community engagement programs including Principal for a Day, the Excellence in Education Awards and Connected by 25, a broad coalition of civic, corporate and education groups working to help every young person in Portland be successful in school, employment and community work.

### **About The Portland Schools Foundation**

The Portland Schools Foundation is an independent, community-based organization that mobilizes ideas, leadership, political support, and money necessary to ensure a first-rate education for every child, in every public school, in every Portland neighborhood. Over the past 10 years, the Schools Foundation has invested more than \$4.5 million in programs to strengthen achievement in Portland’s schools. For more information visit [www.thinkschools.org](http://www.thinkschools.org).

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