

## UrbanPromise Trenton Melissa Mantz Retirement Announcement

It is with mixed emotions that the Board of Trustees of UrbanPromise Trenton announces the upcoming retirement of Melissa Mantz, who has served as our Executive Director since 2016. Effective May 1, 2023, Melissa will be stepping down from her role after seven years of dedicated service to our organization and the community.

During her tenure, Melissa has been a driving force behind the growth and success of our organization. Melissa's leadership has been instrumental in growing our financial position, enabling us to expand our programming and other initiatives for our students. She has also supported the professional development of our staff, as well as employing close to 200 Trenton teens who are vital assets to the organization. Melissa was also instrumental in forming and growing many community relationships and solid partnerships, has led the organization through a pandemic, strategic planning process, and much more. As a direct result of Melissa's efforts, we are better positioned to meet the emerging and evolving needs of our students.

When Melissa assumed the role of Executive Director, our top priority was to ensure our students were reading at grade level and could successfully complete high school. Today, our high school student graduation rate is 100% and many have also secured admission to prestigious 4-year colleges and universities, often with significantly reduced or no cost. Our academic offerings have also evolved considerably under her guidance; we have developed a comprehensive strategy and curriculum. As a result, our students now participate in summer camps where they engage in experiential learning activities, enhancing their academic and personal growth.

With the addition of Sean McFadden as our new Executive Director, a talented and capable staff, and a committed board of directors, we are poised to continue to grow and carry forward our vision.

Melissa shares: *"It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Executive Director at UPT. I am grateful for the strong support we have received through the years, from volunteers, community members, area colleges, faith families and donors. I remain humbled by the students and their families and their dedication to each other and to equity in education and beyond. I know Sean will work diligently to build on the successes of the past years and UPT will continue to grow and thrive."*

Bruce Main, Founder and President of UrbanPromise also adds: *"I've had the privilege of observing many non-profit leaders over the past three decades. Through her integrity, commitment and faithful leadership, Melissa leaves behind a healthy and generative ministry for the city of Trenton—an incredible gift for future generations of youth."*

As we bid farewell to Melissa, we want to express our sincere gratitude for her dedication and invaluable contributions to UrbanPromise Trenton. She will be deeply missed by the staff, board, volunteers, partners, donors, and especially our students.

Sincerely,



Lynn Lorenz  
President, Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of UrbanPromise Trenton

