

October 2023

Dear Valley Forge Educational Services Community,

You all have heard by now that Grace Fornicola, Executive Director of Valley Forge Educational Services, announced her retirement at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. We are so grateful to Grace for her tremendous career leading our organization. Her dedication to our very special population, our staff, our Board of Directors and the entire VFES community has been incredible. She will indeed be missed.

We are in the process of searching for Grace's successor, knowing that she is leaving big shoes to fill! I want to update you on the search process for the VFES Executive Director role.

A Search Committee has been formed to facilitate the process of recruiting, selecting and recommending eligible candidates. The committee includes the following individuals:

- Grace Fornicola, VFES Executive Director, Special Advisor to the Search Committee
- Dawn Pataki, Search Committee Chair, Trustee
- Victoria Moschella, Board Vice-Chair
- Matt Hildenbrand, Trustee
- Devang Patel, Trustee
- Kristen Waterfield, Trustee

After researching and interviewing multiple organizations, we have retained [Lambert & Associates](#), a local executive search firm that works exclusively with non-profit clients. Lambert has successfully placed leaders at organizations like ours, and we were impressed by their experience in similar searches locally. We have confidence that our search will be well-guided by this very professional and thoughtful organization led by Catharine McGeever, Tara Sweeney and Marie O'Riordan.

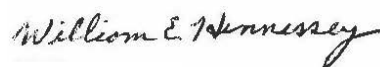
The team at Lambert & Associates developed the job description for the role with input from Grace, the VFES Directors and the VFES Board of Directors. The search process has already begun and we expect to be interviewing candidates early in 2024.

As a next step in the process, Lambert & Associates is keenly interested in candidate recommendations. Feel free to send them directly to Cathy McGeever at cfmcgeever@lambertassoc.com.

Finally, when we move into the new calendar year, we expect to provide another update on the process, including more details of the interview process for critical stakeholders.

We are grateful for this community's continued support of VFES during this time of transition. We expect to celebrate Grace's awesome services to VFES and her many accomplishments towards the end of the academic year. In the meantime, we look forward to making meaningful progress on this critical Executive Director search.

Thank you,



Bill Hennessey
VFES, Chair, Board of Trustees