

Dear Idyllwild Community,

It is with deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude that I share that Idyllwild Arts Academy's Head of School, Marianne Kent-Stoll, will retire at the end of this academic year, next June 30. For nearly ten years, Marianne has stewarded our school community with the utmost care, humility, empathy, and grace. Throughout the remainder of the year, Marianne will continue to lead Idyllwild Arts Academy as we navigate the pandemic, focus on strategic priorities, and prepare for a smooth transition for our next Head of School.

Marianne has been an integral and vital member of the Idyllwild Arts Academy community since June 2012, serving as Academic Dean, Assistant Head of School, and Head of School, a role to which she was appointed in July 2020. With a strong commitment to excellence, Marianne's leadership led to enhanced art and technology offerings and an increase in cross-disciplinary courses that encourage interdisciplinary thinking, innovation, and experimentation.

Prior to the pandemic, Marianne laid the groundwork for a more equitable and inclusive school community. This included the formation of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Collaborative, the creation of The Community of Respect, which documents norms and expectations for classroom and community engagement, and training for faculty, staff, and students by such respected organizations as Green Dot (bystander intervention training), RAINN (manager of the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization), and the USC Race and Equity Center, led by the esteemed Dr. Shaun Harper.

In March 2020, when the pandemic forced the school to send its three hundred students home to their thirty different countries around the world, Marianne ensured that the educational program remained intact and quickly supported resources for online learning. As students moved their lives from our boarding school campus to their private homes, Marianne led the faculty to keep the students engaged while they and their families grappled with the social, emotional, and educational challenges associated with distance learning.

In 2008, prior to joining Idyllwild Arts, Marianne and her husband, Don, founded the Karimu International Help Foundation. Throughout Marianne's tenure at Idyllwild Arts Academy, she and Don have accompanied students, faculty, alumni, and friends to Tanzania. All of them spoke about the transformational experience that the trip provided. Once retired, Marianne will spend more time in East Africa as her foundation works with the Tanzanian government to support new communities whose residents are desperate for access to clean water and improved educational and healthcare facilities.

On behalf of the entire Idyllwild Arts community, I express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Marianne Kent-Stoll for her outstanding service to Idyllwild Arts, its ideals, and its people. I wish the very best for great success in her endeavors as she continues to transform lives.

With gratitude,



Pamela Jordan

*President, Idyllwild Arts Foundation*

