

On behalf of the Collegiate School Board of Trustees and the School Search Committee, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Penny B. Evins as our next Head of School, effective July 1, 2019.

Penny's appointment is the culmination of a nine-month national search that drew interest from a wide and diverse range of accomplished educators.

Early in the process, we established an Advisory Committee comprised of Collegiate faculty, students and alumni. We also engaged an independent school search firm, Carney Sandoe & Associates (CS&A), whose representatives visited campus and interviewed faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni and administrators. CS&A also surveyed the Collegiate community. Through this research, we learned that Collegiate stakeholders are united around the distinct leadership values that we want in our Head of School – integrity, vision, compassion, inclusivity, a strong sense of community, and a passion for education and children.

Penny possesses all of these values and more. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated the professional agility necessary to lead across all areas of independent school life. She has a passion for setting every student on a pathway to success and a strong appreciation of school culture and community.

We are thrilled to have found such an exceptional leader who is so aligned with Collegiate's core values and aspirations. We fully expect Penny will move our strategic priorities forward in a way that unites everyone around Collegiate's timeless mission.

Penny was born in New Orleans where she attended Isidore Newman School. She is a graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall in Connecticut. She received a B.A. in English and M.Ed. in counselor education from the University of Virginia. Penny will come to Collegiate after a successful six-year tenure as Head of St. Paul's School for Girls (SPSG) in Baltimore, Maryland. While at SPSG, Penny led the school's healthy growth in enrollment, contrary to both local and national trends in independent schools. She also introduced innovative programs, including off-campus real-world experiences for students and new electives to enhance the overall curriculum.

Prior to her service to SPSG, Penny held a wide variety of positions, including counseling, admissions, strategic planning and division-level headships at some of the leading independent day schools in the Southeast.

Penny and her husband Sam, also a longtime independent school educator and coach, have two teenage children, Sam and June Friend, who will attend Collegiate. We are looking forward to welcoming the Evins family to Richmond and our Collegiate community.

We are thankful for the hard work and wisdom of the Search Committee and Search Advisory Committee members, and the valuable input we received from nearly 1,000 members of our extended Collegiate family. Moreover, we are deeply grateful that Penny and her family have chosen to join us as Collegiate moves forward.

Best wishes,