

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT
Laura Maciel
laura@centralvalleycf.org

Central Valley Community Foundation welcomes new board members

FRESNO, CA - The Central Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) has welcomed three new board members. Oliver Baines of Central Valley NMTC LLC; Heather Brown of Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission; and Misty Her of Fresno Unified School District, join 17 other community leaders on CVCF's Board of Directors.

"Our Board of Directors is comprised of a dedicated group of leaders who are committed to community transformation," said Rod Thornton, Board Chair at CVCF. "Oliver, Heather, and Misty bring the kind of energy and experience needed to help address the region's many challenges and opportunities. I look forward to serving with them."

The incoming board members succeed departing board members who completed their terms of service: retired Superintendent of Schools Larry Powell and Dr. Lydia Herrera-Mata of Valley Health Team.

"We are very appreciative of the time and devotion Lydia and Larry have given over the years to our community. CVCF is a better organization for their service," said Ashley Swearingin, President & CEO of CVCF. "I am pleased to welcome three exceptional leaders to our Board of Directors and look forward to adding their valuable insight and expertise at CVCF as we work to strengthen the communities of the Central Valley."

The CVCF Board of Directors meets bi-monthly and is responsible for providing financial oversight of the organization's assets, setting the strategic direction for the organization, approving grantmaking and fund development, and affirming CVCF's mission.

"I am very excited to join the CVCF Board - the Foundation's work in this community is a game-changer, and I'm glad to be in a position to assist with and support their success," said Brown. "I look forward to serving alongside the rest of the board as we work to bring transformative change to our communities across the Central Valley."

"I have spent my career serving the residents of Fresno, and I'm excited to continue my commitment to this city and our region as part of the CVCF Board," said Baines. "Together we will focus intently on addressing challenges in our community and creating opportunities for all Central Valley residents."

"Serving on the CVCF Board of Directors is an opportunity to have a different kind of impact on local students, said Her. "This is a time of great transformation in the Central Valley and I am looking forward to being part of this work."

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NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOS:

Oliver Baines

Oliver Baines is a 25-year resident of Fresno with an extensive track record of community service. Mr. Baines' professional career began in law enforcement as a police officer for the Fresno Police Department. During his 11 years as a Fresno Police Officer, he was decorated with two Life Saving Medals, 2008 Officer of The Year, Chief's Commendations, and multiple Peer Commendations. Mr. Baines' experience in community policing inspired him to run and become a Councilmember for the City of Fresno, representing District Three for two terms. During this time, he was active in many programs addressing economic, social, and environmental problems, including Workforce Investment Board, Fresno Works, the City's Successor Agency to Redevelopment Agency, San Joaquin Valley Air Board District, along with numerous community-based programs. Mr. Baines was the Founder of the Valley Apprenticeship Connections (VAC), a workforce development program that focuses on preparing young men and women from the hardest to serve populations in the Fresno region for a career in the construction trades. Since 2016, 73% of enrolled VAC students have completed the program, 78% are employed earning wages averaging over \$20/hour, and 94% have retained their employment long-term.

Mr. Baines was a board member of Central Valley NMTC Fund, LLC, (CVNMTC) for nine years, and in 2019 transitioned to its President and CEO. During his time on the board, Mr. Baines actively sourced deals from the Fresno area and was involved in the approval process for CVNMTC's \$95M of allocation with \$140M in project costs. In his first year and under his direct leadership secured an additional \$25M of allocation in 2019.

Mao Misty Her

Misty Her was 5 years old when her family was sponsored to come to the United States in 1980. Her family resided in Garden Grove, California for a year before moving to Fresno. Without any formal education and not speaking English, her parents had heard that Fresno was a place rich in agriculture. They hoped to return to their farming roots and provide their children with opportunities they were not afforded. It is in Fresno that Ms. Her's roots in education deepened through the Fresno Unified School District. Through the mentorship and coaching of many teachers, counselors, and leaders Ms. Her blossomed as a student and found a love for teaching early in her elementary school years. Her dream was to inspire students to realize their full potential.

After high school, Ms. Her attended Fresno State University where she received a BA in Liberal Studies and a Masters in Administration and Supervision. Ms. Her became a teacher and taught grades second through sixth. She became the first Hmong Vice Principal in Fresno Unified School District and 2 years later would become the very first Hmong Woman Principal in the United States. Ms. Her currently serves as an Instructional Superintendent in the Fresno Unified School District.

As an Instructional Superintendent, Ms. Her is accountable for the achievement of ALL students through the development of effective and strategic instructional programs, training, and coaching of leaders and staff to improve teaching and eliminate the achievement gap. She analyzes, interprets, and monitors performance management data across the district in the areas of academic performance, academic growth, academic completion, and retention, social-emotional, and culture and climate. She leads and oversees district improvement

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efforts including the implementation of curriculum, staff development, evaluations, student assessments, and community relations.

Ms. Her believes we each have a calling. She has been called to do educational missionary work to impact and change the lives of children and their families. She knows the decisions she makes has a direct impact on changing the trajectory of the young minds that she has the privilege to interact with every day. She believes the greatest gift we can give someone is the opportunity to see their full potential. It's incredibly powerful when we all invest in and inspire HOPE in our youth.

Heather Brown

Heather M. Brown is an accomplished executive with 25 years of experience leading teams to operational success. At Fresno EOC, Ms. Brown leads Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications, Strategy, Equity and inclusion, and Facilities. She is active in the Fresno, California community, where she co-chairs the Race Equity committee for the Fresno DRIVE initiative, an innovative project proposing to comprehensively rehaul Fresno's economic landscape. Infused in her career and civic involvement is a lifelong commitment to the health and wellbeing of women. Currently, she supports efforts focused on pre-term birth outcomes for Black women and creating a continuum of care for Black children and adolescents. Ms. Brown grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Ms. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in Latin Language and Literature from the University of Richmond and an MBA from Averett University.

ABOUT CVCF:

The Central Valley Community Foundation has been a trusted partner in philanthropy in the Central Valley for more than 50 years. Our mission is to cultivate smart philanthropy, lead, and invest in solutions that build stronger communities.

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