



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Steppingstone Scholars Appoints Three New Members to Board of Directors**

*Educational social mobility organization expands Board to further create Pathways for underserved Philadelphia youth*

**August 11, 2021 (PHILADELPHIA, PA)** – [Steppingstone Scholars](#) (Steppingstone) today announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors who will further bolster the organization’s mission to create pathways to college and the workforce for low-income, underserved students in Philadelphia.

Steppingstone welcomes the following Board members beginning their term in September 2021:

- Reginald M. Browne, Principal, [GTS Securities](#)
- Rev. Charles L. Howard, Ph.D., University Chaplain and University Vice President of Social Equity and Community, [University of Pennsylvania](#)
- Grace Limaye, Chair of the Science Department, [The Episcopal Academy](#)

Known for its innovative, entrepreneurial, and talented network of professionals and its relentless focus on pursuing great ideas that drive real change, Steppingstone will appoint these highly engaged community members to expand its Board to 19 members. The new appointments invite fresh perspectives from respected leaders in business innovation and finance, education, and STEM.

“We cannot break the cycles of disinvestment and socioeconomic inequality in our city alone,” said Sean E. Vereen, Ed.D., president of Steppingstone Scholars. “We need the support – and voices – of community leaders and partners to help maximize the impact Steppingstone has in Philadelphia. We are excited and grateful to have Reggie Browne, Reverend Charles ‘Chaz’ Howard, and Grace Limaye join our Board as their individual commitment to our students fits perfectly within our larger Board’s shared vision for a transformed Philadelphia. As we invest further in the creating new pathways for young men and women, I believe that together – and through this work – that Steppingstone will be at the intersection of creating a better future for our City.”

New board member, [Reginald M. Browne](#), Principal of GTS Securities, is an industry pioneer who has been at the forefront of the Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) Industry. Currently, Browne directs the strategy, vision and customer engagement of the GTS customer business within its

strategic partnership with Mischler Financial. Browne has more than 30 years of experience in equities, equity derivatives market making and client management, with a focus on helping clients to build and grow their business. Browne earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from La Salle University, where he currently serves as a trustee. He is also the Vice Chair and National Trustee for the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA). He resides in Bucks County, Pennsylvania where he lives with his wife, Dr. Aliya Browne, and their four children.

Also joining the board is the [Rev. Charles L. Howard, Ph.D.](#), University Chaplain and University Vice President for Social Equity and Community at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), his alma mater. An Episcopal Priest, he has served in both hospital and hospice chaplaincies, and as a street outreach worker to individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. His writing has been featured in such publications as Daily Good, Sojourners Magazine, Christianity Today's Leadership Journal, Chronicle of Higher Education, The Huffington Post, The Christian Century, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Forward, and Slate. He is the author of five books including most recently *Pond River Ocean Rain* and *The Bottom: A Theopoetic of the Streets*. He shares life with his beloved wife, Dr. Lia C. Howard and their three daughters.

Joining Browne and Howard on the Steppingstone Board of Directors is Grace Cornelius Limaye, Chair of the Science Department at [The Episcopal Academy](#) (Episcopal). A 1990 alumna of Episcopal, Limaye returned to her alma mater in 2015 as Assistant Director of Admissions and then served as a key leader in the development of Episcopal's Center for Teaching and Learning. Prior to her return to Philadelphia, Limaye was a sixth-grade science teacher and middle school science department chair at Menlo School in Atherton, California for nearly 15 years. While in California, Limaye served on the Board of Advisors for East Palo Alto Charter School and was involved as a volunteer and supporter of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. Limaye received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1995 and her MBA from Columbia University in 2000. She, her husband Ryan, and their two children reside in Wayne, Pennsylvania where they are active members of the community.

For more information about Steppingstone Scholars and its Board of Directors, please visit: [steppingstonescholars.org](http://steppingstonescholars.org)

### **About Steppingstone Scholars**

Steppingstone Scholars is an educational social mobility organization. For low-income students in the City of Philadelphia there are no clear pathways made specifically for them to go to college and enter the workforce. Since 1999, Steppingstone has been working to address this systemic problem by creating not just one pathway, but many. Serving students ages 10 – 24, Steppingstone offers three (3) solutions-oriented approaches: *Academy*, which provides transformative, rigorous learning opportunities to high-achieving educationally underserved students to access and succeed at highly resourced schools; *Pathways*, which leverages custom resources inside public K-12 schools (neighborhood, charter, and citywide) to create pathways to college and the workforce for educationally underserved students; and *Ventures*, which creates broad enrichment programs that innovate the ways in which schools, nonprofits, and

communities can more equitably serve engaged citizens ready to enter college and a changing workforce. This systemic multi-faceted approach helps students identify, create, and confidently walk their pathways through institutions of higher education and work, well-prepared to begin breaking the cycles of disinvestment and socioeconomic inequality that has existed in Philadelphia for generations. For more information regarding Steppingstone Scholars, please visit: [www.stepsstonescholars.org](http://www.stepsstonescholars.org).

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