



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Steppingstone Scholars Announces New Chief Talent Officer Chanell Bates**

*Education non-profit welcomes new addition to senior management team, addressing rapid growth & impact of organization in underserved Philadelphia community*

**November 2, 2021 (PHILADELPHIA, PA)** – Steppingstone Scholars (Steppingstone) today announced the appointment of new senior leadership team member, Chanell Bates, welcoming her to the Chief Talent Officer (CTO) role effective November 2. In this new position, created to address Steppingstone’s rapid growth, Bates will lead the organization’s efforts to recruit, retain, and develop outstanding talent dedicated to creating pathways to college and the workforce for underserved, especially black and brown, students in Philadelphia.

“Chanell’s passion, perspective, and vast experience in education and workforce development will help bring Steppingstone to a new level,” said Sean E. Vereen, Ed.D., President of Steppingstone Scholars. “Steppingstone is experiencing an exciting time of growth, and with Chanell’s leadership, we will build our innovative and entrepreneurial team to meet the needs of our Scholars and partners. The Steppingstone team is known for making things happen and delivering for young people and families everyday, and we are thrilled that Chanell is joining us.”

Bates has a passion for improving the life outcomes of young people, leveraging more than 15 years experience in the education sector. She previously served as director of strategy and operations in the School District of Philadelphia’s Office of Talent, where she was responsible for designing and enhancing systems that support the District’s personnel needs and implementing a portfolio of high-quality teacher pathway programs. Prior to this role, Bates served as director of postsecondary initiatives at Mastery Charter Schools, leading college, career and alumni programming for seven high schools, serving approximately 3,000 students. Bates also brings a wealth of experience partnering with institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, and philanthropic organizations to create pathways for lifelong success for Philadelphia youth. Bates holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Rutgers University and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia.

“It is an honor to join Steppingstone as I’ve admired its refreshing and on-the-ground mission and commitment to equity,” Chanell Bates, new CTO of Steppingstone Scholars. “My new role at Steppingstone will allow me to utilize my experience in college access, while also tapping into my skills in developing and investing in professionals dedicated to creating opportunities for underserved youth. To me, creating pathways for our students is all about transition – transitioning and preparing

a student for what's next. I can't wait to see what's next for Steppingstone Scholars as we continue to grow in the Philadelphia community."

For more information about Steppingstone Scholars, please visit [steppingstonescholars.org](https://steppingstonescholars.org)

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### **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.steppingstonescholars.org](https://www.steppingstonescholars.org).

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