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Turn the Page KC Announces New Executive Director

[KANSAS CITY, MO] (June 24, 2021) – Turn the Page KC Board of Directors today announced that Dr. Kristin Droege has been named the Executive Director of the organization effective July 12, 2021.

Over the last 20 years Dr. Droege has served in leadership roles in the creation and growth of three different charter schools across Southern California and Kansas City, each of which continues serving children today. In her most recent role as Founding Executive Director for Citizens of the World Charter School in Kansas City, Dr. Droege was responsible for overseeing and ensuring success of charter approval, finances, facilities, enrollment, hiring, community outreach, Board engagement, and fidelity to the mission and model of the school.

“As our community emerges from a year of nontraditional schooling, the Board felt it was critical that the next Executive Director of Turn the Page KC be ready on day one to support student reading and success,” wrote Kelly Carnago, Chair of Turn the Page KC Board of Directors. “The pandemic and its impact on learning have highlighted the need for our organization to continue advocating for and advancing effective reading instruction for all of our KC kids.”

Dr. Droege’s commitment to ensuring that Kansas City becomes the city that reads is backed up by her extensive background in literacy instruction and engagement. She has 13 years of teaching experience, both teaching reading to first graders and teaching teachers of reading across the graduate level.

"I am so honored to have the opportunity to lead Turn the Page KC. The organization’s focus on literacy and quality programming in early childhood and outside of school hours is central to taking Kansas City to the next level as a place where all children can succeed and follow the path they choose,” Droege said. “I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue the many partnerships that have been established and develop more in support of children, families, and schools.”
A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Droege received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, and received both her Master’s and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Droege takes over for Turn the Page KC Founding Executive Director Mike English.

“Mike’s contributions to our organization cannot be overstated. Mike established Turn the Page KC as a 501C3 nonprofit organization and has led the creation and implementation of the organization’s strategic plan,” Carnago wrote. “Under Mike’s leadership, Turn the Page KC has made real progress on the critical issue of third grade reading proficiency, and we thank Mike for his tireless work on behalf of all Kansas City kids. Mike is going to continue to consult with nonprofit organizations and we have no doubt that his impact will be widespread. We wish Mike the best in his new pursuits.”

Turn the Page KC mobilizes our entire community to ensure children gain the literacy skills they need to create a lifetime of opportunity by focusing on four factors that most contribute to reading success: school readiness, school attendance, summer learning, and access to books. www.turnthepagekc.org

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