

Announcement from School for Friends Board Regarding the Appointment of the Next Director of School for Friends



Berna Artis

The Board of Trustees of School for Friends is delighted to announce that Berna Artis will become our next Director. At the end of July, Berna will succeed Jim Clay, who announced at the beginning of this school year that he would be retiring after thirty-six years of service to School for Friends.

Berna was selected from a highly talented pool of applicants, after a thorough search process that engaged many members of our community. Throughout the process, the search committee was impressed by Berna's vision for early childhood education, her care for children, families, and teachers, and her commitment to the values at the heart of our Quaker mission. During her day-long visit to the school, she quickly connected with our faculty, and impressed all with her inclusive, supportive leadership style. In Berna, the

search committee and board found the right blend of experience, ability, and leadership to guide School for Friends in the coming years.

Berna is an established school director, with more than fifteen years of experience in early childhood education. She is currently Executive Director of Tiny Findings Child Development Center, and before that was Director of the Early Learning Program at Board of Child Care, where she also had served as teacher supervisor and a classroom teacher. As a director, Berna is committed to supporting families and teachers in their efforts to build child-centered communities, and to do so in a manner that incorporates up-to-date research and best practices, including by developing anti-bias curricula. Berna is also deeply engaged with the broader early childhood education community in Washington. She is certified by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education as a trainer and workshop facilitator for teachers and families, and she serves as Vice-President of the DC Association for the Education of Young Children.

Berna will begin at School for Friends in late July, with a short period of overlap with Jim. There will be an opportunity for members of our community to meet her later this spring -- more details on this event to follow.

We look forward to Berna joining us this summer, and we are confident that School for Friends will continue to thrive under her leadership. Please join us in welcoming her and her family to our community!

Josh Gallu
Chair, Board of Trustees
