



THE FOUNDATION
FOR FRESNO UNIFIED STUDENTS

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students Welcomes Four New Board Members
*Community Leaders Bring Diverse Expertise in Education, Finance, and Civic
Engagement to Support Fresno Unified Students*

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students is proud to announce the appointment of four distinguished leaders to its Board of Directors: **Laura Schlundt**, **DJ Criner**, **Babatunde Ilori** and **Zak Johnson**. Each brings unique experience, professional excellence, and a shared commitment to expanding educational opportunities for students in Fresno Unified School District.

“We are thrilled to welcome Laura, DJ, Babatunde and Zak to our Board,” said Wendy McCulley

Chief of the Office of Engagement and External Partnerships and CEO of The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students. “Their diverse expertise and deep dedication to our community will strengthen our mission to ensure every student has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.”

Laura Schlundt has served as Controller for Net Positive Consulting Engineers since the company’s founding in 2021, guiding its financial growth and success. A Fresno State alumna with a strong background in accounting, she is also a founding member of the Rotary Club of Community Action in Fresno County, where she is deeply involved in service projects that enrich the Central Valley. Laura became a Foundation Board member in January 2025.

DJ Criner is the Senior Pastor of Saint Rest Baptist Church in Southwest Fresno and a respected community leader dedicated to social justice, youth empowerment, and economic development. He also serves as Chairman of the Faith in Fresno board and as Campus Pastor for Fresno Pacific University’s North Campus, working closely with community partners to address local challenges such as food insecurity and mentorship for young people. DJ became a Foundation Board member in March 2025.

Babatunde Ilori is CEO of Parsec Education, a Fresno-based edtech company that recently secured \$8 million in Series A funding to expand its data-driven solutions for K–12 schools. His previous leadership roles include Executive Director of Accountability and Communications at Madera Unified School District and Director of Equity and Access and Chief of Staff at Fresno Unified School District. He holds advanced degrees in educational leadership, marketing, and computer information systems. Babatunde became a Foundation Board member in March 2025.

Zak Johnson is Senior Vice President and Regional Commercial Banking Manager at California Bank & Trust, where he leads commercial and small business banking teams across the Central Valley. With more than two decades of leadership in banking, he has been recognized nationally for innovation, team development, and exceeding growth goals. A graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in Business Economics, Zak brings deep expertise in credit, strategic planning, and community partnerships. Beyond his professional role, he is an active volunteer, serving with Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, and the San Joaquin Valley Parkway & Conservation Trust. Zak will formally become a Foundation Board member in September 2025.

With these appointments, the Foundation strengthens its capacity to connect community resources with Fresno Unified’s 69,000 students, fostering equity, innovation, and opportunity across the district.

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students’ mission is to ensure every student in the district has the tools and resources to reach their full potential. As the strategic fundraising partner for Fresno Unified, The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students is working with schools, the

district and the wider community to drive student success through funding of the highest impact investments.

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