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Pedro Paz, Ph.D. Joins Santa Barbara Foundation as Director of Grantmaking

SANTA BARBARA, CA – In the spring of this year, the Santa Barbara Foundation conducted a search for a Director of Grantmaking, a position to oversee the foundations community grant programs. After, several weeks of interviews Pedro Paz, Ph.D. was selected as the top candidate.

“The foundation has been in search of a director with a combination of strong professional qualifications and a true love of our community,” said Ronald V. Gallo, Ed.D, President and CEO of the Santa Barbara Foundation. “We couldn’t have asked for a better person to do the job than Dr. Paz, whose expertise and versatility, along with his familiarity with the non-profit landscape of Santa Barbara County, makes him a huge asset to the foundation. We are excited for him to join our team in providing excellent service to our county residents.”

Paz’s new role will include developing and administering the foundation’s annual grantmaking programs and strategy, establishing and strengthening positive relationships with nonprofit community leaders, and implementing strategies to create high quality grant programs. He looks forward to continuing the important work of making Santa Barbara County a stronger community.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to continue my service with the team at the Santa Barbara Foundation,” said Paz. “They do such amazing work, and I’m honored to be alongside them, providing resources for the communities we all love.”

Paz was born and raised in Santa Barbara County, and received an M.A. and Ph.D. in Education from UC Santa Barbara. He has worked for numerous local organizations including La Casa de la Raza, UC Santa Barbara and both the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Unified School Districts. Paz also worked for the County of Merced in a number of roles, including Executive Director of First 5 Merced County. Prior to working for the foundation, he was employed by the County of Santa Barbara as the Program & Evaluation Manager for First 5 Santa Barbara County.

Paz is an active and influential leader in Santa Barbara County, and has served the community as a board member for a number of non-profits, including the Santa Barbara City College Foundation and The Fund for Santa Barbara. Additionally, he served as a Trustee for the Santa



Barbara Unified School District Board of Education, been a Commissioner for the County of Santa Barbara's Human Relations Commission and currently serves on the City of Goleta's Public Engagement Commission.

This hiring marks the beginning of a plan to expand Santa Barbara Foundation's staff. "As the Foundation continues to evolve and grow, people like Pedro are exactly who we want to have on board," explained Barbara Andersen, the Santa Barbara Foundation's Chief Strategy Officer. "He has a proven track record of doing excellent work and he is fully immersed in and committed to our local community."

To learn more about the Foundation and its growing team, visit SBFoundation.org.

About Santa Barbara Foundation:

Founded in 1928 and now the largest grant-maker in the county, the Santa Barbara Foundation's mission is to mobilize collective wisdom and philanthropic capital to build empathetic, inclusive and resilient communities.

Over the decades, nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has benefited from the work of the foundation. From the funding of rest camps for undernourished children in 1934 to today's groundbreaking work to support family caregivers, the foundation has grown and learned with the communities it serves.

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