



## **The VERY Latest from our CEO – January, 2017**

Dear Friends and Supporters of ALearn,

As we enter our 10<sup>th</sup> year of serving students from underserved backgrounds all over Silicon Valley, I am filled with gratitude for all of you who have been Board members, donors, partners, staff, and volunteers on the way to serving over 9,000 students and getting them on the path to college and out of poverty. Special thanks to Diane Frankle, our outgoing Chair who has served with such energy, passion, and professionalism as our Board Chair for the past 8 years. You are the best!

Our work is needed now, more than ever before. Social justice demands that we help and serve these students from immigrant and underserved communities and their families. Today, with Trump as President, and with Silicon Valley growing even more crowded and costly, they are under special pressures and hardships. We must stand united in support of these students of color and capability and character—they will add to the robust economy of this century, and will bring their imagination and drive to help businesses and communities of the valley. We cannot wait; we cannot abstain; we cannot stand back. Our students of color represent more than 60% of the K-12 population, and we need their brains, hearts and courage to fill businesses with talent, to teach our children, to be doctors and nurses to the next generation.

So we move forward with imagination and dedication to these future Hidden Figures. ALearn will innovate with our partners and bring the best research and practices into the classrooms of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Just as we introduced the work of Carol Dweck and positive growth mindset to our teachers and students years before it became common practice in K-12, we will continue to introduce the best interactive, team-building and critical thinking practices to our STEM classrooms.

Many thanks to each one of you for walking with us and walking in the shoes of our deserving students and families.

Warmest regards,

Kathryn S. Hanson