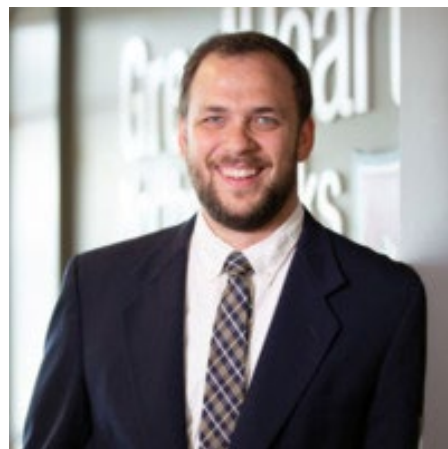


Leadership Journeys

**Samuel Heisman, Incoming Executive Director
Great Hearts Texas**



As Samuel Heisman prepares to step into his new role as Executive Director in Texas, he reflects on the journey that brought him here. "I'm mostly kidding when I say they were the only outfit that would give me a shot," Mr. Heisman laughs, remembering his start with Great Hearts right out of college. "But seriously, what drew me then—and what still draws me now as a parent of five scholars—is the alignment around human flourishing and the cultivation of hearts and minds. That mission permeates everything we do, whether in business operations or the classroom."



Over the years, Sam Heisman has worn many hats within all regions across the organization, most recently as the Founding Head of School at Great Hearts Harveston in Louisiana. Though his return to Texas is a warm and welcome one, his departure from Louisiana is bittersweet, having spent the past three years helping to launch the first academy in this emerging region for Great Hearts. Each role has prepared him for the challenges and responsibilities that lie ahead in supporting Headmasters in Texas. When asked what has shaped his leadership most, he is quick to acknowledge the investment of his mentors.

"Great Hearts has given me far more opportunities than I deserve," he says humbly. "Andrew Ellison and David Denton have been incredible mentors, and working with executive coach Keith Merron has been lifechanging. I've also learned so much from Heather Washburn—particularly in how to build systems and work plans that truly serve all students." With deep roots in the organization and a heart aligned to its mission, Heisman enters this next chapter with gratitude and focus.

Though he has not officially begun in his new role, Mr. Heisman is already feeling encouraged by the support he's received. "Technically, I haven't started yet," he notes, "but the warm welcome from old friends has been a tremendous blessing."