



**BROOKLYN
KINDERGARTEN
SOCIETY**
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
SINCE 1891

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROOKLYN KINDERGARTEN SOCIETY NAMES MELISHA JACKMAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Experienced Educator takes the helm of 7 pre-k centers serving Central Brooklyn

Brooklyn, NY, 9/16/20—Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, a 129 year old leader in early childhood education names Melisha ‘Mel’ Jackman as its new Executive Director. Ms. Jackman will start at BKS on Tuesday, September 22nd. Ms. Jackman is an experienced educator having held multiple pedagogical and leadership positions within public schools in New York City. Ms. Jackman brings her dedication to creating opportunities for students that support deep thinking, curiosity, and advocacy. Ms. Jackman is a passionate educator and innovator who is currently a Managing Director at East Harlem Tutorial Program. Ms. Jackman will manage BKS’ \$10 million annual budget, its seven educational centers, and teaching staff that serve more than 400 2 to 4-year-olds in three community districts in Central Brooklyn.

BKS began its intensive search for a new Executive Director in May 2020. The search committee was composed of board members, staff, and BKS parents. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the search committee interviewed multiple applicants remotely; we narrowed the list down to three finalists who were invited for in person, socially distanced, interviews. Ms. Jackman is the clear choice to lead our organization as we adapt to the new normal of Covid-19.

“We are delighted to have Mel Jackman join the BKS family. Mel is the right balance of teaching and management that BKS needs to weather the current uncertainty of Covid-19 and social unrest, and economic turmoil. Mel brings two critical resources to BKS; a deep understanding of teaching, and a wealth of management experience. I have no doubt that Mel will continue to promote excellence within our teaching staff and help our students have an equal first step in their education.”

BKS Board Chair, Amerika Williamson.

At East Harlem Tutorial Program, Ms. Jackman currently manages a multimillion dollar budget and leads a team to provide academic and enrichment programs to over 700 students in East Harlem. Ms. Jackman has been recognized for her work. In 2007 she was featured in the New York Times for innovative teaching, In 2016 Manhattan Borough President recognized her for creating college and career exploration opportunities for students.

Brooklyn Kindergarten Society has remained a leader in the early childhood field since 1891. Through seven early education centers located in the central Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and Crown Heights; BKS provides a high-quality toddler and preschool educational program with three or more teachers in every classroom. BKS utilizes the research-based curriculum as the foundation for learning and exploration. Varied materials and play areas allow children to engage actively in literacy, art, music, science, and math. Our classrooms are filled with print-rich environments for children to see and use written language—including books, computers, cozy reading areas, and well-stocked writing centers. Early language and literacy development is a key component of the BKS curriculum. BKS further partners with the parents and families of the children we serve to provide stabilizing supports and services to ensure that their children succeed.

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