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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Viewpoint School Announces Dr. Anjali Tripathi, Class of 2005's Valedictorian and NASA's Exoplanet Ambassador, as its Class of 2024 Commencement Speaker**

CALABASAS, CA – May 30, 2024 – Honoring a cherished tradition of inviting distinguished alumni to deliver a keynote address to its Upper School graduates, Viewpoint School announced today Dr. Anjali Tripathi, Class of 2005's Valedictorian, and NASA's Exoplanet Ambassador, as its commencement speaker for the Class of 2024. On Saturday, June 8, at 9:30 a.m, Viewpoint will hold its annual Commencement ceremony with 110 members of the Class of 2024 surrounded by family, friends, school administrators, faculty, staff, and alumni.

"We are beyond grateful to Dr. Tripathi for honoring Viewpoint and our Class of 2024 with her presence as our Commencement speaker this year," said Mark McKee, Head of School. "Dr. Tripathi is an accomplished astrophysicist who demonstrates how our world-ready education prepares students to make an exceptional difference. Plus, she knows from experience how special and unique our Viewpoint community is, and she'll bring our students the wisdom and perspective of an alumna."

"They say, 'You can't go home again', but as we learned in 2020 - that's just not true," said Dr. Tripathi. "Starting high school at home during a pandemic, the Class of 2024 resiliently adapted to a changing world, and I'm honored to join them in celebrating their incredible journey. Graduation is one of my fondest memories of Viewpoint. What made that day so special were the people there - including the friends and teachers who remain in my life to this day. It means a lot to be a part of this community and to have the opportunity to come back - to the future that is the Class of 2024. I can't wait to return home and share this day of joy with them."

Dr. Anjali Tripathi is an astrophysicist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). She is NASA's inaugural Exoplanet Science Ambassador, serving as the lead science communicator and media personality for NASA's Exoplanet Program. She appears regularly on PBS and TED, but she is most known for talking about science in unusual places - from Coachella and the Tribeca Film Festival to popular music videos and cookbooks. Dr. Tripathi also has the rare ability to communicate complex scientific concepts to a non-scientist audience, as demonstrated in her 2015 TED talk entitled ["Why Earth May Someday Look Like Mars."](#)

In addition to designing new spacecraft to search for life beyond the Solar System, Dr. Tripathi researches sea level rise to help coastal communities adapt to climate change. As a native Angeleno shaken by the Northridge earthquake, she is committed to using science to serve society. She served as a senior advisor to Presidents Obama and Trump in both the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has served as the acting Executive Director of the National Science and Technology Council and as a White House Fellow. At home in Los Angeles, she co-led COVID vaccination, data, and public information efforts for the L.A. County Department of Public Health, being recognized as a Public Health Hero and Innovator of the Year.

Dr. Tripathi earned her PhD and MA in Astrophysics at Harvard University, as a National Science Foundation Research Fellow. She earned her MPhil in Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, as a Marshall Scholar, and her SB in Physics, with a Minor in Applied International Studies, at MIT. In gratitude for the opportunities she has had, Dr. Tripathi is a regional commissioner for the White House Fellows program, and she is Chair of the UK Marshall Scholarship selection committee, advising the British Ambassador to the U.S. She previously worked at a Fortune 500 company and taught at Harvard University. Among her numerous honors and awards, she is a Jeopardy Champion.

Dr. Tripathi added: "I'm better known for my first appearance on Jeopardy, as a new Seventh grader at Viewpoint, who sassed Alex Trebek, while wearing an assembly blazer."

**About Viewpoint School:** Viewpoint School is committed to creating exceptional readiness for extraordinary futures by cultivating the critical skillset, courageous mindset, and resilient identity of each individual student. Founded in 1961, with a legacy of academic distinction and college preparedness, the School's scenic 40-acre campus in Calabasas, California provides students in grades TK-12 with an ideal setting to grow and learn, where each Viewpoint student is known, respected, and included. Visit [viewpoint.org](http://viewpoint.org) to discover a school where "tradition connects us and innovation propels us."

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