PIPER USD 203

July 1, 2025
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Piper Educational Foundation Welcomes New Executive Director Liz Gianessi

KANSAS CITY, KS – The Piper Educational Foundation is proud to announce the appointment of Liz Gianessi as its new Executive Director. A seasoned nonprofit leader with deep roots in education and strategic development, Gianessi brings a wealth of experience and a clear vision for strengthening the Foundation's impact in the Piper community.

Gianessi joins the Foundation with an impressive background in education-focused nonprofit work, both domestically and internationally. Her career spans leadership in individual and institutional fundraising, strategic partnership development, and program advancement across a variety of mission-driven organizations. Most notably, she has led fundraising and engagement initiatives at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she helped cultivate support from alumni, families, and philanthropic partners.

"We are thrilled to welcome Liz to the Piper family," said Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Piper School District. "Her passion for education, her track record in development, and her commitment to equity and community-building make her the ideal leader to guide the Foundation's next chapter."

Gianessi's experience also includes direct work with students and families as a preschool and after-school program director. This hands-on perspective informs her collaborative and inclusive leadership style, focused on elevating the educational experience for all learners. She is particularly skilled in building sustainable, community-rooted programs that align with public education goals and support long-term student success.

"I'm honored to join the Piper Educational Foundation and support the district's bold vision for the future," said Gianessi. "There is incredible momentum in Piper right now, and I look forward to working alongside our community to grow the Foundation's reach, inspire investment, and ensure every student has access to exceptional opportunities."

Gianessi holds a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Kansas State University and a master's degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from American Public University.

The Piper Educational Foundation works to enhance educational excellence across Piper USD 203 by securing resources, building partnerships, and investing in innovative programs that support students, teachers, and schools. For more information on the Piper Educational Foundation, visit https://www.piperschools.com/piper-educational-foundation.

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