

The Game Changer

Shanae ✨ Vaifanua-Pace

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION AND
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For Shanae Vaifanua-Pace, Bosque School's Director of Admission and Enrollment Management, education has never been just about academics—it's about preparing students for life. Before joining the independent school world, she spent nearly a decade working in higher education. There, she saw a striking truth: even the most accomplished students often struggled outside the classroom. They knew how to study for exams but lacked essential life skills such as self-advocacy, conflict resolution, building healthy relationships, time management and adaptability.

"Academic excellence alone doesn't guarantee success," she explains. "To thrive, young people also need the skills and confidence to navigate real life."

That realization motivated Shanae to transition into secondary education, where she could help shape those critical foundations earlier. At Bosque School, she has found a community that not only values whole-child education but truly lives it each day. "At Bosque, I see it everywhere—in classrooms, in conversations, in the way teachers know and value each student," she says. "We are preparing students not just to succeed in school but to flourish in every aspect of their lives."

Her journey to Bosque School was also a personal leap of faith. Leaving behind her spouse's 14-year career, close friends and extended family, Shanae and her family moved to Albuquerque to embrace the unknown. "Change is scary," she reflects, "but it's also where possibility lives." That spirit of courage now shapes the way she connects with families as they take their own risks in choosing a new school.

What fuels her most, though, are the families themselves. She is energized by the opportunity to introduce them to a community where their children will be seen, heard and truly known. Helping families realize that an independent school education is within reach—even when they thought it wasn't—is a part of the work that brings her immense joy.

For Shanae, this mission is also deeply personal. As the mother of two young girls of color, she wants them to grow up seeing a world full of possibilities and supportive communities. She treasures being part of a school that nurtures children to become well-rounded adults without rushing their childhood. "My work is a reflection of the values I hope to instill in my own daughters," she says.



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