

# SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION OF SONOMA COUNTY



Creating college graduates who change the world

## **Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County Announces Selection of Lisa G. Carreño as its first Executive Director**

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(April 25, 2012) Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County, a newly formed partnership of Community Foundation Sonoma County and 10,000 Degrees, is pleased to announce the selection of Lisa G. Carreño as its first Executive Director. The goal of the new entity is to substantially increase the amount of scholarship funding available for Sonoma County students and to encourage youth to pursue education beyond high school.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director for the Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County, Lisa practiced litigation, estate and trust law as an Associate with Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP. From 1993 to 2005, Lisa directed the YWCA of Sonoma County, leading the organization through many innovative joint ventures with the faith community, other nonprofit agencies, and government partners, to fulfill its mission of empowering women and children and eliminating racism.

Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County founding donors Herb and Jane Dwight came to the Community Foundation with an idea. "Jane and I wanted all Sonoma County students to have access to the full range of higher educational opportunities. We knew the Community Foundation would help us find like-minded donors and partners to accomplish this goal."

"Guided by the Dwight's vision, we sought to pair the Community Foundation's knowledge of Sonoma County with a comprehensive approach to providing Sonoma County students access to higher education," states Barbara Hughes, President & CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County. "We found that partner in 10,000 Degrees, a program with a proven record of success."

The Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County will be based at the Community Foundation's offices.

Lisa Carreño is a founding member of Latino Leaders of Sonoma County and currently serves on the boards of directors for Forget Me Not Farm Children's Education Services, United Way of the Wine Country, and Sonoma County Fair and Expositions, Inc. Her past nonprofit and legal experience and her ongoing community involvement inform her leadership of the Scholarship Foundation of Sonoma County.

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*Community Foundation Sonoma County was founded in 1983. Its mission is to strengthen communities through effective philanthropy and community engagement. It has current assets of more than \$150 million, which are held in more than 450 charitable funds created by individuals, families, community groups and businesses. An affiliate of Community Foundation Sonoma County, Sonoma Valley Fund was created and is managed by respected community leaders to help sustain and improve the Valley's unique socioeconomic, environmental, and cultural qualities for generations to come. For more information, go to [www.sonomacf.org](http://www.sonomacf.org).*

*The current model for 10,000 Degrees is a relationship-intensive, 14-year+ program that begins with college exposure in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, is open to any low-income student in the region, and promises kids that if they stick with it they will earn their degree. Lower achieving students are encouraged to participate. Our own need-based scholarship program, strategic leveraging of community and government aid, and capable volunteers, especially alumni, make it extremely cost-effective. 84% of our students graduate from college compared to 24% nationally from low income households. For more information, go to [www.10000degrees.org](http://www.10000degrees.org).*