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*Tri-County Cradle to Career
Collaborative*



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Volvo Car Group executive joins Tri-County Cradle to Career board TCCC announces staff changes, additions

North Charleston, SC - Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC), a nonprofit organization that works to improve educational outcomes for all children, has added a new board member and two staff members.

Katarina Fjording has been elected to the TCCC Board of Directors. Fjording is the Vice President, Purchasing and Manufacturing, Americas, for Volvo Car Group. An automotive veteran with 28 years of global industrial operations experience from Europe, Asia and America, she has held several senior positions before moving to the Lowcountry. She also serves as a board member for Sunfleet Car Sharing, American Red Cross of Lowcountry SC and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

"We are fortunate to have Katarina's service on our board," Anita Zucker, chair of the TCCC board, said. "She is passionate about education and workforce development in our region and will make real contributions to our work."

Alexa Stephens, who has been serving as TCCC's Director of Data Management and Analysis, has accepted a new position to oversee TCCC's community engagement work as Director of Strategy and Community Insight. Stephens will continue to report to TCCC CEO **John C. Read**, and her work will be overseen by a board committee to be chaired by **Barbara Kelley-Duncan**, who retired last year as CEO of Carolina Youth Development Center.

Sarah Piwinski has joined the staff as the Director of Data Management and Analysis, filling the vacancy left by Stephens. Piwinski previously served as a Program Manager with EarthEcho International, where she oversaw an international environmental education program. Prior to that, she was the Research Data and Measurement Director for Trident United Way. Piwinski holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology and a master's degree in public administration, both from the College of Charleston.

Ashley Heffernan has joined the staff as the Director of Communication and Administration, replacing Amy Asper, who has decided to return to part-time employment. Heffernan most recently worked as a Staff Writer at the Charleston Regional Business Journal. Prior to that, she worked in the Public Relations Office of the Medical University of South Carolina and at various media outlets. Heffernan holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

"As the work of our organization has expanded, especially in respect to deepening levels of community engagement, we are fortunate to have a high caliber team to support the work," Read said.

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About the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative

The Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC) is a community-wide movement in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, South Carolina focused on improving the quality of life of its citizens and its workforce through education. Using data and focused community collaboration across a continuum from “cradle-to-career,” TCCC serves as a catalyst for widespread systemic change, with the ultimate goal of increased student success and economic prosperity for all.

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