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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LEAP FOR EDUCATION APPOINTS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

SALEM, MA — LEAP for Education is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to its Board of Directors, following their appointment on December 2, 2020. Joining the nine standing members are Derek Gaskins of Marblehead, MA and James C. Rowan III of Stoneham MA. These two new members bring a passion for innovation in education and a desire to assure equity and access to quality academic, post-secondary and career success programs for underserved youth.

Mr. Gaskins, Chief Marketing Office of Yesway, Inc., brings an expertise in marketing to the Board and will help LEAP management develop a marketing strategy. Yesway, Inc. is owned by an affiliate of Brookwood Financial Partners, LLC (“Brookwood”), a private equity firm located in Beverly MA. Mr. Gaskins lives with his family in Marblehead MA.

Mr. Rowan, a Principal in Deloitte’s consulting practice, brings expertise in technology and finance. Mr. Rowan also leads diversity, equity and inclusion efforts to bring a DEI lens to the practice’s recruiting and hiring and, as a result, will provide LEAP with much needed experience as it develops its DEI policies and practices. Mr. Rowan and his family live in Stoneham, MA.

“We are excited to be expanding our Board with such experienced professionals. Derek and Jim will help us elevate our marketing, finance and DEI strategic thinking, stated Linda E. Saris, LEAP’s Founder, Executive Director and Board member.

“I’m honored to be able to serve an organization that will empower so many students to create and believe in, their own unique educational and career goals,” said Mr. Gaskins.

“I firmly believe that education is the key to achieving economic and social mobility and I look forward to providing my time and expertise to help underserved students and advance LEAP’s mission,” said Mr. Rowan.

Both will join LEAP’s Board with a 3-year term ending on September 30, 2023.

### **About LEAP for Education, Inc.**

*LEAP for Education ([www.leap4ed.org](http://www.leap4ed.org)) has as its mission to empower underserved youth to achieve economic and social mobility by cultivating personal, educational and career growth. LEAP staff teaches its students academic and life-skills and provides personalized support and community connections to help them graduate with a post-secondary degree or credential and create a future based on their strengths and interests.*

*LEAP is an acronym for: Learn, Explore, Aspire, and Pursue.*

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