

Stevens Cooperative School Names Dr. David Penberg Interim Head of School

Stevens Cooperative School, a leader in progressive education with two campuses in Hoboken and Jersey City, has hired David Penberg, PhD, to serve as Interim Head of School for the 2011-2012 school year. The School's Board of Trustees selected Dr. Penberg from a strong pool of qualified candidates based on his decades-long background in progressive education, which started as a student at the Bank Street College of Education, his extensive experience in international schools and his understanding and respect of the Stevens' unique culture and needs. Zoë Hauser, Head of School for 16 years, is moving to Myanmar to take a new position.

“We are thrilled to be welcoming a leader with passion for progressive education and far-reaching global experience to Stevens,” said Jan Abernathy, Board Chair. “We look forward to partnering with him on several priorities that our board of trustees has identified: increasing our development efforts, strengthening our administrative structure, and finding more opportunities for integration of our two campuses as our community grows.”

“The world is requiring a different approach to how we educate children,” said Dr. Penberg. “I believe in educating whole children for the whole world-- tapping the social, emotional and cognitive capacity of children so that they can live in the world as culture makers-- and not merely consumers. I intend to bring that same commitment to Stevens.”

An urban and international educational leader for 26 years, Dr. Penberg has a deep grounding in academic excellence, rigorous progressive education and cross-cultural experience.

Since 2007, he has been the Head of the Benjamin Franklin International School in Barcelona, Spain. Previously he was the Director of Leadership for New Visions for Public Schools in New York as well as the Head of Studies at the American School Foundation in Mexico City. His areas of interest include global citizenship and youth leadership, collaborations with educational and cultural institutions, technology integration and the role of the arts in K-12 programs.

In addition to his M.S. in Leadership and Supervision from Bank Street, Dr. Penberg has a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

A native New Yorker, he has two adult daughters, Rebeka and Zora and a partner, Janelle Lynch, who is a photographer.

“Stevens has been extraordinarily fortunate to have been under the leadership of Zoë for 16 years and we know that David will build upon the culture of excellence that she has put in place.” said Kim Lew, Chair of the Interim Head of School Search Committee.

Dr. Penberg has a one-year contract with Stevens. The search for a permanent head of school will begin at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Stevens Cooperative School is a 2s-8th grade non-denominational, progressive school with 400 students in four facilities in Hoboken and Jersey City. It is accredited by the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. For more information: <http://www.stevenscoop.org>