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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nonprofit of the year appoints new executive director

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - May 20, 2020 - Affinity Mentoring, a nonprofit that provides one-on-one mentoring relationships for students at Burton Elementary, Burton Middle School, Southwest Community Campus and Godfrey-Lee Early Childhood Center, today announced Cassandra Kiger as its new executive director. Cassandra joins Affinity Mentoring from the Hispanic Center of West Michigan where she was an interpreter trainer.

"Cassandra has a great combination of vision, skill set and passion to lead our organization," said John Robinson, Affinity Mentoring board president. "She is connected to the community, inclusive in her leadership style, focused on equity and a champion for our mission."

After earning her Master of Social Work from Grand Valley State University, Cassandra has dedicated her career to advocating for equitable opportunities for refugee and immigrant youth, child sexual abuse prevention and education support. She has a decade of experience in program management, research, development as well as diversity, equity and inclusion training, programming and leadership.

"Every individual, from the youngest to the oldest, brings valuable history, experience, knowledge and expertise to contribute to making our community great," said Cassandra. "I want to work together with my neighbors towards our mutual liberation and contribute equitably to a bright and prosperous future."

The Grand Rapids Chamber named Affinity Mentoring the 2019 Non-profit of the Year at its 10th annual EPIC Awards.

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About Affinity Mentoring

Affinity Mentoring is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to interrupting the cycle of poverty through mentoring relationships. Affinity believes that high quality, long-term mentoring relationships are the avenue through which youth can achieve their full potential and break the cycle of poverty. Our vision is that every student has a caring adult mentor to help improve academics, social-emotional skills, and self-esteem. We partner with organizations, schools, corporations, and individuals to provide high quality, culturally responsive mentoring to school-age children. For more information, visit <https://affinitymentoring.org/>.