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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mentoring organization appoints new executive director

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – April 19, 2022 – Affinity Mentoring, a nonprofit that provides one-on-one mentoring relationships for students at select schools in Grand Rapids Public Schools and Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, today announces Sharalle Ankrah as its new executive director. Sharalle holds a wealth of experience in both education and mentoring. She’s worked as an educator within GRPS-authorized charter school, a director of after school programming, and a director of other mentoring organizations.

"We look forward to how she will help move Affinity Mentoring forward with her strong skill set which includes grant writing, diversity, equity and inclusion, and leadership experience," says John Robinson, Affinity Mentoring board president. "She is a passionate and experienced leader who has a deep understanding of the community. She brings critical perspective and insight, and was unanimously chosen by both the Affinity Mentoring team and board to step into this role."

Sharalle is a graduate from Grand Valley State University with a degree in English for Secondary Education. A Detroit native, Sharalle has always had a heart for community development through inspiring the forthcoming generation. She has a vision to be a leader in youth development in Grand Rapids with influence on a systematic level that brings revenue, impact, and action into Affinity Mentoring, public schools, and communities. She believes mentoring can help create equitable opportunities for growth and community impact among students and families who are often left in the margins.

"We have made incredible changes to so many aspects of Affinity Mentoring over the past two years, but I fully recognize that we are approaching the limits of what my leadership can offer to the organization," said Cassandra Kiger, Affinity Mentoring’s outgoing executive director. "It is with true honor and joy that I pass the mic over to Sharalle as the next executive director of Affinity Mentoring."

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About Affinity Mentoring

Affinity Mentoring is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to facilitate equitable growth in academics, social emotional skills, and self-esteem through mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. We believe in cultivating a brave space that amplifies the voices of young agents of change in a diverse and inclusive community. For more information, visit <https://affinitymentoring.org/>.