

Appointment of Dr. Sherri Helvie as Head of School

November 14, 2025

Dear Gateway Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are pleased to share important news about the leadership of our school. After a thorough and thoughtful search process, the Board has unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Sherri Helvie as the permanent Head of School.

As you are aware, Dr. Helvie has been serving as our Interim Head of School since August 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year. In a short period, she has led our community with steady guidance, deep care for our students, and a clear vision for the future of Gateway. Under her leadership, we have seen consistent communication with families about the strengths of Gateway's programs, constructive collaboration among faculty, clarity around student needs, and a renewed passion and vision that we believe will take the school from that of a hidden gem to that of a shining star among special education schools in the New York City area.

When the Search Committee and Faculty Advisory Committee initiated the search process earlier this year, our goal was to explore all possibilities while remaining attentive to the needs of our school community at this pivotal point in its journey. We engaged in a comprehensive review process, which included:

- Vetting 36 applicants, interviewing 12 semi-finalists, and winnowing the pool of candidates down to 4 finalists – with one ultimately needing to withdraw their candidacy;
- Bringing the finalists to Gateway for two-day intensive onsite visits;
- Gathering feedback from faculty, staff, families, and students;
- And deliberating and assessing each candidate's skills based on feedback and references.

Through this process, it became increasingly clear that the person best equipped to lead us forward was already within our community. Sherri comes with 25 years of experience in education and 6 years of experience as a Head of School. Her understanding of our mission, her demonstrated commitment to individualized education, and her ability to inspire trust and collaboration stood out consistently in every conversation.

Over the coming months, the Board of Trustees will establish a Leadership Transition Committee to partner with Sherri, ensuring she has all the necessary resources and support to transition seamlessly into her long-term role. We are confident that under Sherri's continued leadership, Gateway will build upon its strong foundation, deepen its



commitment to each learner, and remain a place where students thrive.

We invite you to join us in congratulating Sherri and celebrating this exciting next chapter for Gateway. The Board is deeply grateful to every member of our community who participated in this process with thoughtfulness and care.

Please continue reading below for a welcome message from Dr. Helvie, Gateway's ongoing Head of School.

With appreciation,

Polly Brandmeyer
Chair, Board of Trustees

Chris York
Chair, Search Committee
Member, Board of Trustees

A Welcome Message From Dr. Sherri Helvie

November 14, 2025

Dear Gateway Friends and Families,

It is truly an honor to continue serving The Gateway School as your permanent Head of School. Over the last three months, I have had the opportunity to get to know so many members of our community—students, faculty, families, staff, and alumni—and I have been deeply impressed with the community-wide commitment to Gateway's mission, vision, and values, but most of all, the shared commitment to our students.



Families seek out a Gateway education to find a learning community that is purposefully built to serve the learning profiles of students with language-based learning disabilities and attention deficits, not simply to accommodate their differences, but to experience an exceptional program that celebrates our students' unique ways of learning. Gateway's 60 years of successful outcomes for students is a powerful testament to our proven approach, and an excellent foundation for innovations that will ensure our students and community thrive well into the future.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their confidence in my leadership, to the faculty, staff, students, and families who engaged whole-heartedly with the search process, and to the entire Gateway community for your partnership and trust as we honor Gateway's legacy while planning for a bright future.

As we look ahead, I am excited to work alongside our dedicated faculty and staff to continue strengthening our programs, expanding opportunities for our students, and building on the traditions that make Gateway special. I look forward to the many, many opportunities that lie ahead!

With Gateway Pride,

Sherri

Sherri C. Helvie, Ph.D.
Head of School