

## **The David and Lucile Packard Foundation Names Meera Mani Director of the Children, Families, and Communities Program**

June 20, 2011

LOS ALTOS, California - The David and Lucile Packard Foundation announced today the promotion of Meera Mani, Ed.D., from program officer and manager to director of the Children, Families, and Communities (CFC) program, effective August 1, 2011.

“Meera Mani brings key leadership to the Children, Families, and Communities program, and to the work of the Foundation,” said Foundation President and CEO Carol S. Larson. “This promotion reflects her expanded role in providing strategic stewardship to the preschool, after-school, and summer enrichment subprograms, ensuring that our grantmaking achieves its ambitious goals for children.”

Mani joined the Foundation in 2009 as a program officer in CFC. In September 2010, she was promoted to program officer and manager. In that role, she successfully led the implementation of the preschool subprogram strategy and worked closely with outgoing director, Lois Salisbury, to build a strong and cohesive team within the preschool, after-school, and summer enrichment subprograms. She has also partnered with the Foundation’s Local Grantmaking program to bring Educare, a nationally recognized early childhood initiative, to California. In her new position, Mani will work collaboratively with the Foundation’s leadership and program staff to provide strong stewardship of Foundation resources and to advance CFC’s strategic plans and programs.

“I look forward to working with Foundation Trustees, colleagues, and our experienced program staff and community partners to continue to advance access to high-quality early education and health care services for young children, so that they can reach their full potential,” said Mani.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Mani was research director at Preschool California, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to increase access to high-quality early learning for children in California. At Preschool California, she monitored and advised national and state research and evaluation efforts, providing expertise and strategic support to ensure effective policy development. Mani also served as the president of The Clayton Foundation in Denver, Colorado, where under her direction, the foundation focused on high-quality programs for children from birth to five, teacher education, and building effective systems. Between 1999 and 2001, Mani led and managed the day-to-day operations of Educare Colorado, now known as Qualistar Early Learning, a statewide initiative dedicated to assessing and improving the quality of early childhood programs.

Mani holds a master’s degree in child development from M.S. University in India and a doctor of education in Educational Leadership and Administration from Boston University.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is a private family foundation created in 1964 by David Packard (1912–1996), cofounder of the Hewlett-Packard Company, and Lucile Salter Packard (1914–1987). The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the following program areas: Conservation and Science; Population and Reproductive Health; and Children, Families, and Communities. The Foundation makes national and international grants and also has a special focus on the Northern California Counties of San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. Foundation grantmaking includes support for a wide variety of activities including direct services, research and policy development, and public information and education. The Foundation does not make grants intended to influence

legislation or support candidates for political office. Foundation grant awards totaled \$234 million in 2010. The Foundation expects grantmaking awards of up to \$234 million in 2011.

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