

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### DIANA LAM NAMED BARR FELLOW

*Boston, Massachusetts - November 18, 2014* –Diana Lam has been awarded a fellowship from the Barr Foundation in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to greater Boston.

Diana Lam is head of school of the Conservatory Lab Charter School, the only music-infused public elementary school in Massachusetts and, as initiated by Diana, the first public school in America to serve as a site for Venezuela's El Sistema music education and youth development model during the school day. She most recently served as vice president for global education and community outreach at Christel House International, and earlier as deputy chancellor for teaching and learning at the New York City Department of Education. She has also served as superintendent in San Antonio, Texas; Providence, Rhode Island; Dubuque, Iowa; and Chelsea, Massachusetts. Diana is a leader in the Boston Compact of district, charter, and parochial schools, and is a founder and Board chair of the Margarita Muñiz Academy, Boston's first bilingual public high school (named after a 2007 Barr Fellow).

“The Barr Fellowship's underlying values also align with those of Diana's, whose early experience with poverty and decades of experience in turning around failing school districts have instilled in her an indomitable spirit of compassion, love, and forgiveness, as well as an uncanny knack for developing mutual trust and respect among a colorful array of constituencies and stakeholders.” comments Gary Gut, chairman of the Conservatory Lab Board.

Four times since 2005, Barr has named a class of twelve Fellows, making a long-term commitment to each of them and facilitating their connections with one another. Fellows are selected for their outstanding contribution to Boston and their potential to drive positive change for years to come. “The Barr Fellowship extends from the Foundation's commitment to invest in effective, visionary, and collaborative leaders,” says Jim Canales, President of the Barr Foundation.

For her part Diana Lam states “It takes imagination to see how closely our fates have become intertwined, but I am reassured by the Program's recognition that our active learning as leaders is not just intellectual; it is communal, emotional, and spiritual too. I look forward to being a part of this community of learners and sharing our journeys, expanding our maps, and dreaming bigger than our individual experiences would have ever allowed.”

The Barr Fellowship includes, among other things, the opportunity for global travel and leadership retreats over three years. Fellows' organizations also receive financial support to promote organizational development, and for mentoring of emerging leadership.

For more information about the Barr Fellowship, visit: <http://www.barrfoundation.org/fellows>