

A letter from the Board of Trustees of the Las Cruces Academy – April 2025

Dear Students and Parents of the LCA,

We, the Board, are so pleased that you are in the Academy. You've helped make the 2024-25 academic year and fiscal year a great success. We owe our growth in service to you to your interest, your fine academic performance, and your confidence in us. We owe that, too, to our teachers, the best group we have ever had – thanks, Elizabeth, Katie, Shanta, Yulin, Yolanda, Brigit, Todd, Lou Ellen, and Vince!

This year a great venture is in progress; it assures that we can continue as a great school in the best building. We are buying the Preston building that we all love, using the funds we have generated over the years and a mortgage from a local bank. We planned this for 12 years, and this year the owners and we came to a critical decision. Tinsley and Anita Preston have favored us with very good leases for 12 years. They are getting their value out of the building for the sake of their children. They offered us the building at more several hundred thousand dollars under both the appraised and market values. We could not refuse! We on the Board of Trustees did a great deal of financial analysis, much consultation with a number of banks and many advisors, and engagement with all of you, the LCA families, in preparation for the purchase. The mortgage will succeed as we grow our enrollment with your continuing help.

The Board of Trustees, our treasured Head of School Dr. Lou Ellen Kay, our Deputy Head of School and teacher, Elizabeth Brasher, our esteemed teachers, and all of you participating families and volunteers keep us growing in many ways. We are all together in keeping our academic programs improving. Lou Ellen will give the wonderful details in her letter in this yearbook. You've been hearing them from your fellow students and parents. There are more ventures to come in several years – accreditation and moving to paid administrators for sustainability. Stay tuned!

To the parents, grandparents, and guardians among you: The Las Cruces Academy is unique in the region and beyond, in how extensively and willingly you participate in the many activities. You help us by donating to the Annual Fund – we can keep enriching our programs and supporting our teachers. Most importantly, you work with the students to see them succeed. To see the results of all our work together – students, parents, teachers, the Board, and friends of the school, please look at our website, lascrucesacademy.org.

We look forward to even more progress with all of you, who form a great part of our lives.

Vince Gutschick, David Gutschick, Paul Deason, Elizabeth Brasher, Sue Salamanca-Riba, Steve Pate-Morales, Jessica Houston, and Pritish Chamania