

Think Together Appoints New Chief People Officer Joshua Felix, PHR

Nonprofit veteran Joshua Felix joins as the afterschool and expanded learning provider readies staff to support school partners as they head back to school.

Santa Ana, Calif. (September 22, 2020) – Think Together, California's leading nonprofit provider of school improvement, expanded learning and afterschool programs, today announced the appointment of Joshua Felix as Chief People Officer, overseeing human resources and recruitment for the organization.

Felix previously held the positions of Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships and Director of Operations and Integration for Think Together, giving him valuable insights into scaling organizational talent and overseeing operational development.

He joined Think Together in 2006 as a program leader working directly with students to provide learning support and engagement before moving into human resources and recruiting shortly after.

"As we were looking to fill this role, we knew we needed a forward-thinking leader that could be a positive influence in this ever-changing environment and who truly understands our mission and vision to create education equity," said Randy Barth, founder and CEO of Think Together. "There's no doubt that Josh has the qualities of a mentor and a leader that can inspire our Think Together team to meet this moment during the Great Pandemic and beyond."

Think Together's newest executive leader comes as the nonprofit extends its reach into Palm Springs Unified School District and launches distance learning programs in nearly 300 schools across its nine regions. The expansion brought an additional 110 jobs to Riverside County and 421 jobs throughout the organization ahead of the 2020-2021 school year.

Felix and his team have been instrumental in preparing staff for the safe reentry onto school campuses, including creating a robust training and operations strategy specific to COVID-19 that goes above and beyond California Department of Education and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Under his team's guidance, recruitment and onboarding are now conducted remotely and the organization has scaled its communications and technology infrastructure considerably to address today's primarily virtual work environment.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to bring such growth and innovation to Think Together to really problem solve during this unpredictable time in our history," says Felix. "We're always looking to add talented individuals who are passionate about the opportunity to change the odds for kids, and we're doing some incredible things to really make a difference during this challenging environment."

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Felix earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Irvine and his Master of Arts from University of Sydney. He also holds certifications as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) from the HR Certification Institute as well as an Elite Certified Recruitment Expert (ECRE) from AIRS[®], a leader in recruitment training. In his free time, he enjoys running, cooking and exploring his home of Los Angeles.

About Think Together

Think Together partners with schools and communities to pursue educational equity and excellence for all kids. As a nonprofit organization, Think Together innovates, implements and scales academic solutions that change the odds for hundreds of thousands of California students. Think Together's program areas include early learning, afterschool, school support services and leadership development for teachers and school administrators. For more information, call (888) 485-THINK or visit www.thinktogether.org.

About Orenda Education

A Think Together affiliate since 2014, Orenda Education is in the business of change. This group of highly experienced educational consultants' partners with school districts to identify research-based equity-grounded solutions for closing the Achievement Gap. Orenda's proven approach dramatically improves student outcomes and creates paths for college and career opportunities. For more information please go to <u>orendaed.org</u>.

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