



To: University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Community  
From: Ka Yee C. Lee, Provost, and Daniel Abebe, Vice Provost  
Date: September 1, 2020  
Subject: University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Leadership Search

As we move into the next academic year, we write to share the initial steps of the process to identify a new director of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and will update the community at each stage of the search process. We remain grateful to David Magill for serving as Lab's interim director since May. His invaluable knowledge of Lab, calm leadership, and deep expertise have been critical during this challenging time, and we appreciate his continued commitment to Lab through the 2020-21 academic year.

Over the summer, the Office of the Provost has been preparing for the launch of what will be a wide-ranging international search for a new director, and there are three important developments in that effort. First, the co-chairs of the Lab search advisory committee will be Vice Provost Daniel Abebe, PhD '13, who has oversight over Lab in the Office of the Provost, and Jason Tyler, LAB'89, MBA'99, a Lab Board member. Jason is the Chief Financial Officer of Northern Trust Corporation and has a longtime connection to Lab as an alumnus, parent of a Lab alumnus and a current U-High student, and chair of the Lab Board's Planning and Operations Committee. Under the leadership of Daniel and Jason, the search advisory committee will solicit the views of our broad and diverse community, review the candidate pool and conduct initial interviews, and identify candidates for formal interviews and visits with our community, among other responsibilities. We are grateful that Jason has agreed to co-chair this search at such an important time for Lab, and we will share more information on the composition of the search advisory committee soon.

Second, we are pleased to announce that Storbeck Search & Associates has been retained to assist us in developing an outstanding, diverse pool of candidates for the director position. Storbeck Search & Associates ([www.storbecksearch.com](http://www.storbecksearch.com)) is widely recognized as a leader in executive searches and has recently conducted Head of School searches for Agnes Irwin School, The Baldwin School, Episcopal School of Dallas, Gilman School, The Hockaday School, Mercersburg Academy, Miss Hall's School, Miss Porter's School and Sandy Spring Friends School, to name a few.

Third, the views of the Lab community will be critical to the search, and we invite your thoughts on the key attributes, experiences, and qualifications that the next director of Lab should possess. Your guidance will be compiled and shared with the search advisory committee at the start of the process, but we welcome your comments, suggestions, and advice beginning today through the end of the search. The entire search process will likely take approximately six to eight months from the start of the school year. To help us manage correspondence related to the search and ensure that your views are shared with the search advisory committee, please share your input using the following email address: [LabSearch2020@uchicago.edu](mailto:LabSearch2020@uchicago.edu).

We will update the community soon on next steps in the process including: (1) the formal launch of the search for the next director of Lab; (2) the process to engage directly with the search advisory committee and search consultants to share your views about Lab's opportunities and challenges and the qualities you would like to see in the next director; (3) and the creation of a website to keep you informed of key developments throughout the search process. We look forward to working with you.