



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Avant-Garde Learning Foundation Hires New CEO**

Kameron Holloway Perez-Verdia was recently hired as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Avant-Garde Learning Foundation, an Alaska nonprofit working to prepare Alaska's young people for bright, successful futures. Perez-Verdia, who has been working on contract for Avant-Garde since November 2008, was hired as the interim CEO on February 1, 2009. Avant-Garde's board of directors approved his hire as the full-time, permanent CEO on March 24, 2009.

Perez-Verdia was born in Alaska and raised in the Inupiat village of Point Barrow. He graduated from Barrow High School, and then went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in communications, with an emphasis in human resource management and professional training, from the University of Puget Sound. He also holds a master's of business administration, with an emphasis in executive leadership, from Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver.

Perez-Verdia brings 16 years of experience in the nonprofit and educational field to Avant-Garde. He has held senior leadership positions for Alaska-based organizations including Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Catholic Social Services, Charter College and Alaska Pacific University. Perez-Verdia is also the former executive director for the Family and Intercultural Resource Center in Dillon, Colo., and former senior vice president for Girl Scouts of Colorado. Perez-Verdia, along with his wife Monica and daughter Isa, is returning to Alaska to assume the CEO position at Avant-Garde.

"I am honored to serve as Avant-Garde Learning Foundation's chief executive officer," Perez-Verdia said. "Avant-Garde is an exciting and dynamic organization with strong partnerships throughout the state of Alaska. It is such an important time to come together as a state to address our educational challenges. I am looking forward to the work ahead."

"The Avant-Garde board of directors selected Kameron as our first CEO because he represents what the future of our organization should be. Kameron brings experience, knowledge, enthusiasm and a commitment to the work Avant-Garde does on behalf of Alaska's young people. He understands Alaska, having grown up here, and he knows rural Alaska, having been raised in Barrow. Kameron's years of work at nonprofits in Alaska and Colorado, working on behalf of those who are too often forgotten, have seasoned and positioned him perfectly to take the leadership position for Avant-Garde," said Don Shackelford, vice president of the Avant-Garde board of directors.

Founded by Dr. Shirley Holloway in 2005, the Avant-Garde Learning Foundation is committed to serving Alaska communities, families and students to prepare young people for bright and successful futures. For more information about Avant-Garde, visit [www.avantgardealaska.org](http://www.avantgardealaska.org).

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