



# Great Expectations 2026

LEGACY. LEADERSHIP. FUTURE.

HONORING LINDA SARIS:  
A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP,  
A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

LEAP *for Education*

LEARN EXPLORE ASPIRE PURSUE



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## A NOTE FROM LINDA SARIS:

*So this is it—my final event, my last chance to publicly say goodbye and thank you.*

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to watch thousands of young people grow up and go on to earn degrees and credentials, and to enter careers that match their talents and offer family-sustaining wages.

Just as meaningful, so many of our alumni help their parents cover expenses and become role models for their siblings—demonstrating the powerful family and community impact of your investment in LEAP.

I have also had the privilege of working alongside incredible staff and volunteers. Many joined us early in their careers and have gone on to roles with greater responsibility at LEAP and beyond—including positions in our public schools. I am proud that LEAP could be a launchpad for them—another reflection of your impact.

To our board, partners, and donors—thank you for your wisdom, your time, your investments, and your belief in this mission. The relationships built, the countless volunteer hours, and the millions of dollars donated have helped LEAP and its students thrive.

Some parting words to carry this work forward:

- As AI becomes more present in our lives, protect and prioritize human relationships. Treat every individual as unique, with their own perspectives and potential. Create space for each person to shine.
- Fun and learning are one and the same. Be creative, stay curious, and use the tools available to you to make learning exciting.
- Be adaptable—remain responsive to the needs of the community, and make sure your voice is heard at every table.

I am leaving LEAP in strong and capable hands and with deep pride in all we have built together. I hope to remain connected to the organization in the years ahead, in ways that best support its next chapter of leadership and growth.

Please stay connected with me and with LEAP.

With so much gratitude,

  
Linda Saris

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# **EVENING** *Program Highlights*

## **OPENING**

*BY LEAP ALUMNA SIA-LINDA LEBBIE*

**DR. STEPHEN ZRIKE,  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

## **LEGACY VIDEO**

**LINDA SARIS**

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **NEW ERA VIDEO**

## **RAISE THE PADDLE**

*WITH MANNY CRUZ, DAVID SILVA &  
PAUL TUCKER*

## **CLOSING**



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# LEAP Staff and Board of Directors

## ADMINISTRATIVE & DEVELOPMENT

**Linda Saris**, Executive Director  
**Caitlynn Almy**, Volunteer and Partnership Manager  
**Jess Casolari**, Development Specialist  
**Riddhisha Chitwadgi**, Data Coordinator  
**Stef Crockett**, Human Resources Coordinator  
**Kayla Dorst**, Deputy Director  
**Brittany Hadzy**, Volunteer and Partnerships Specialist  
**Nancy Kelly**, Senior Development Specialist  
**Kathleen McMahon**, Accountant  
**Mira Riggins**, Post-Award Grants Specialist  
**Brandon Sungy**, Data Specialist  
**Amanda Thompson**, Director of Development

## HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY

**Ivana Buenopeña**, Career Exploration and Readiness Manager  
**Ariel FitzHugh**, Senior Director of High School and Post-Secondary Programs  
**Elizabeth Grella**, Career and Education Resource Manager  
**Mariel Nunez**, Teen Center Associate, Lynn  
**Lara São Pedro**, Career and Education Mentoring Coordinator  
**Jeison Toribio**, Teen Center Associate, Salem  
**Erica Waters**, Career and Education Mentoring Associate

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Rebecca Field**, Middle School Curriculum and Summer Program Manager  
**Hilary Kopp**, Senior Director of Middle School Programs  
**Wanntha Sim Chanhdymany**, School Year Manager, Middle School  
**Giscar Smith**, Site Coordinator, Dream More

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**Santi DeOleo**  
**Valerie Fox**  
**Dr. Raminder Luther**  
**Daniel Richard**  
**Linda Saris**, Ex-Officio

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Kara McLaughlin and John Keenan  
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# TruNorth Bank is a Proud Supporter of LEAP for Education.

## Happy Retirement, Linda!

Thank you for the incredible impact you have made through your work with LEAP for Education. Your dedication to empowering others and strengthening the community is truly inspiring.



TruNorth Bank is proud to celebrate your achievements and wishes you all the best in this exciting new chapter.

Congratulations!



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scan or visit  
[www.leap4ed.org/get-involved](http://www.leap4ed.org/get-involved)  
to volunteer with us

*Thank you!*

Thank you for giving your time and energy to support LEAP—  
your presence truly makes a difference for our students and  
our community.

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# FUND A NEED

*Tonight is about more than celebrating—it's about building what comes next. Fund a Need fuels the opportunities that connect education to careers for the young people we serve. Each level below represents a tangible investment in a student's path forward—and in the future of our community.*



**\$10,000**

Create paid work-based learning experiences for 5 youth, including mentorship, skill-building, and real-world project work.



**\$5,000**

Launch a career-connected learning experience for one middle school cohort through a community partner, including hands-on projects and exposure to real career pathways.



**\$2,500**

Bring one career pathway to life for high school students through a hands-on enrichment series led by an industry or community partner.



**\$1,000**

Certify a LEAP staff member or volunteer as a Youth Career Navigator, expanding the network of trained adults who can guide students toward higher education, careers, and opportunity.



**\$500**

Connect 30 youth to an immersive field trip to a college campus, employer site, or industry hub.



**\$250**

Bridge the transit gap so one student can fully participate in a LEAP program, internship, or off-site opportunity.



**\$100**

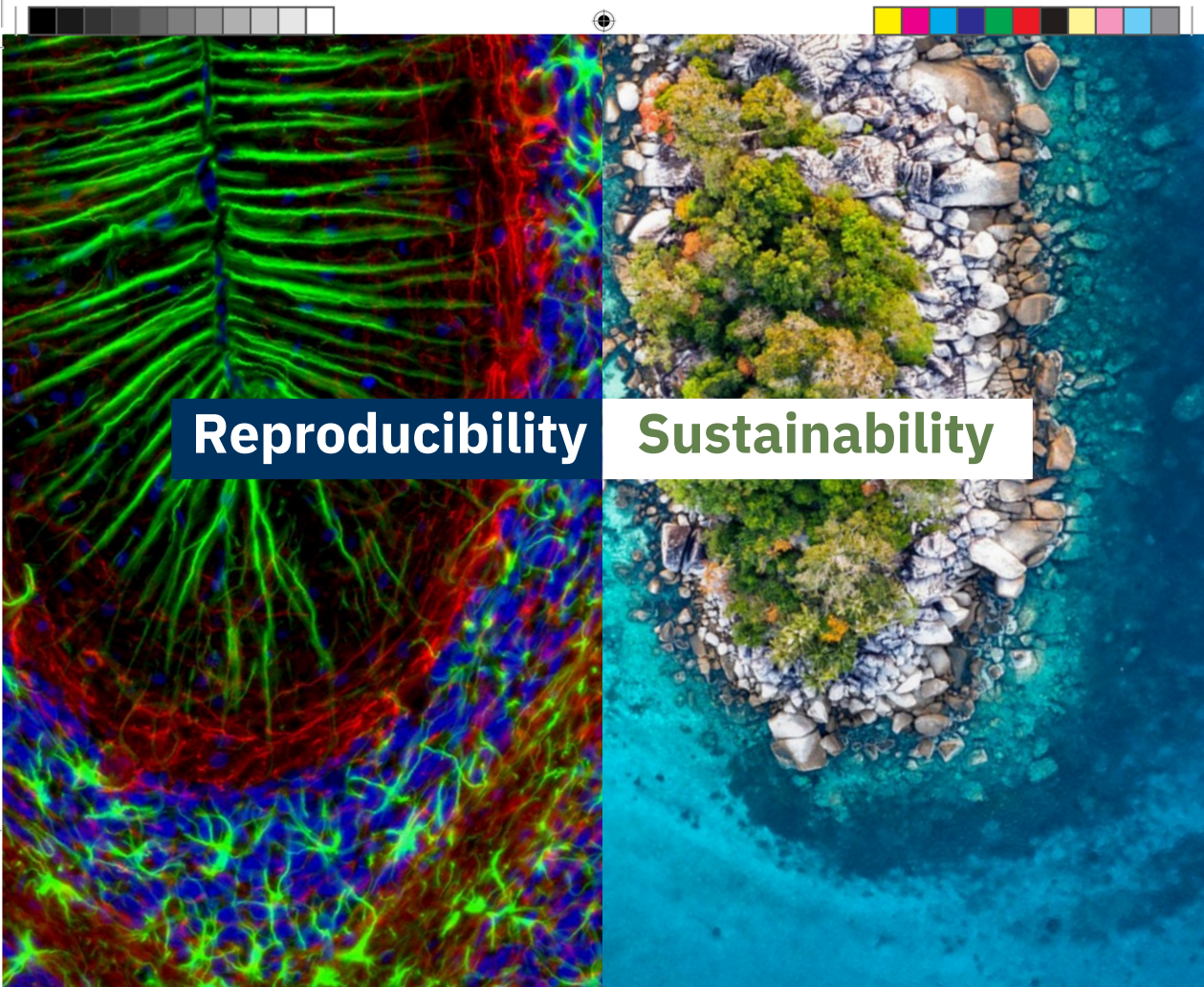
Certify a student in a door-opening accreditation such as OSHA-10, First Aid CPR, Python Coding, and more.











**Reproducibility**

**Sustainability**

CST scientists have always been dedicated to helping researchers find answers and identify solutions. As scientists, we've always been passionate about sustainability, too. And now more than ever, sustainable solutions are needed. CST has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2029. And we've joined 1% for the Planet as its first life sciences industry member. Doing good science is important. So is just doing good.

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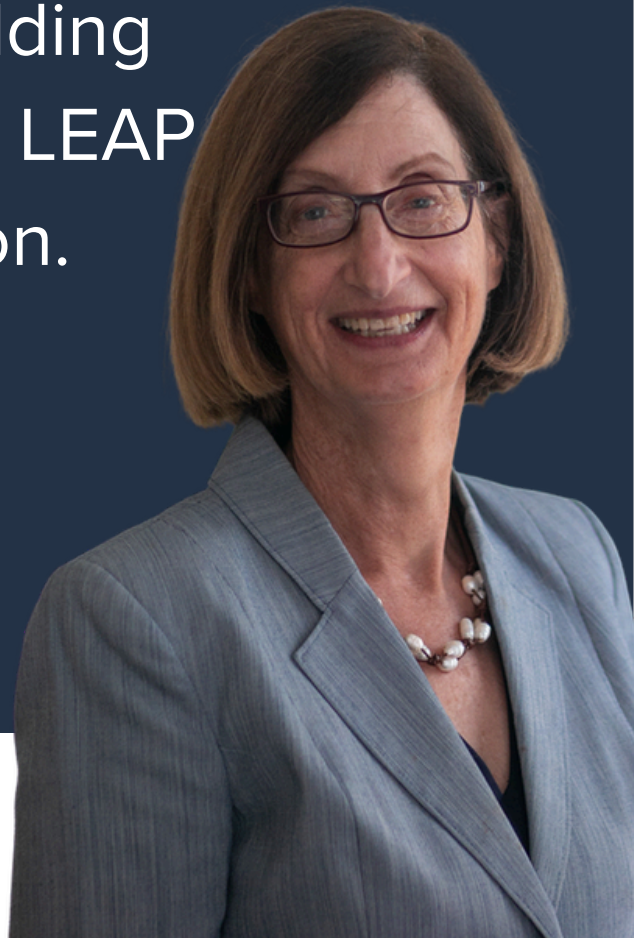


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Honoring Linda Saris  
and her remarkable  
legacy of opening  
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# We are Proud to Support LEAP for Education

*We celebrate 2026 Honoree Linda Saris,  
whose vision has created  
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**Linda, we congratulate you on your retirement and thank you for the impact that you have on thousands of students in Salem and Lynn.**

**We are forever grateful!**

.....

**Joel, Mary and Ben Abramson**

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the good in our communities and  
celebrating the work of

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Congratulations to  
Linda Saris



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# Honoring a true community changemaker.

Salem Hospital proudly honors Linda Saris for her transformative work supporting learners and aspiring professionals across our community, and is pleased to celebrate her ongoing legacy at Great Expectations 2026.



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Congratulations, Linda!

And congratulations, LEAP!

We are proud to support this  
organization.

Rob Rudnick and Connie Everson

**Thank you to Linda Saris  
for her extraordinary  
leadership and  
commitment to  
advancing opportunities  
for youth in our  
community.**

*With gratitude,*

*-The staff and board at Root*



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Linda Saris and LEAP for Education have offered GREAT EXPECTATIONS and success to so many students over the years. In the words of Charles Dickens in Great Expectations:

*The most important thing in life is to stop saying, "I wish" and start saying "I will". Consider nothing impossible, then treat possibilities as probabilities.*

With love and appreciation for all Linda has accomplished in her leadership of LEAP for Education,

Adele and Larry Bacow



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is the most

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- Nelson Mandela

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In addition to managing our expansive real estate portfolio, Brookwood also founded Yesway, a gas station and convenience store business, which we grew into a chain of over 430 locations across nine states.

Brookwood is proud to be a LEAP for Education Business Network Partner and a sponsor of Great Expectations 2026, Legacy, Leadership, and Future.

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Thank you, **Linda Saris**, for  
all the hard work you put into  
creating LEAP. It has been an  
honor and a pleasure working  
with you over the years.


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# **Celebrating the work of LEAP for Education**

***Congratulations Linda Saris on 24  
years of extraordinary service!***

Jessica Tang, President  
Brant Duncan, Secretary Treasurer



Congratulations to Linda,  
and LEAP on 24 years of  
service to our  
community.

Annalisa and Dino Di Palma

*Congratulations, LEAP!*

-----

*Donna and Elliot Katzman*

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*We salute the graduates from LEAP for Education  
and applaud the outstanding work of the LEAP  
staff for the youth of the greater North Shore.*



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Congratulations to LEAP for all their efforts to making lives better for the community they serve.

Wishing you great success for the future.

The Wolpert Team.

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Someone Else's Child Foundation addresses disparities by connecting youth with consistent opportunities to live, learn, grow and engage as contributing members of their communities to create systematic change. We collaborate with like-minded nonprofit organizations, foundations, schools, and community agencies like LEAP For Education. We actively seek out opportunities to thoughtfully expand the scope and impact of Someone Else's Child Foundation through partnerships that enhance our mission to champion young people.

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# 100

**LEAP** *for Education*

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