



## **Ravenswood Education Foundation Looks Ahead to its Fifth Year as Leadership Transitions**

**East Palo Alto, California – August 15, 2011** – Entering its fifth year providing resources and funds benefiting the students in the Ravenswood City School District, the Ravenswood Education Foundation announced today that veteran board member Ms. Renu Nanda has been named its new Executive Director. Former Executive Director Charley Scandlyn will become a member of the board of directors where he will continue to contribute the outreach and relationship building that have helped provide the Foundation with a secure financial and partnership base in only a few short years.

“Charley’s passion, understanding of the schools’ needs, and ability to mobilize the support of the entire community have made the Foundation a strong partner of the Ravenswood City School District, and we are thrilled that he will continue as an active board member,” said Eric Lane, President of the Ravenswood Education Foundation Board.

Ms. Nanda brings over two and a half years of experience leading the Foundation’s Development Committee during a period of extensive growth, despite the weakened economy. She is an attorney with broad experience managing non-profit programs and initiatives, including the Low Income Investment Fund and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

“Renu has the strategic vision, management background, and community commitment to ensure that the Foundation continues our strong partnership with the Ravenswood City School District and builds upon the momentum of support that has really accelerated these last few years,” said Lane.

The Foundation has capitalized on its growth by increasing its contributions to key initiatives targeted at academic achievement and expanding their reach. Extended school days are offered at more campuses, now serving over 1200 students, and nearly twice the number of students and teachers participated in last month’s summer academies. Engagement with parents, a critical factor in educational achievement, received a significant boost this past year with over 500 parent donors pledging their commitment to supporting student success.

Since 2007, the District has continued a trend of improvement with consecutive increases in its Academic Performance Index (API), which reflects the results of each school’s students on statewide tests. The gains have occurred despite the continued growth in challenging demographic conditions facing the District, such as the percentage of low-income students and percentage of English language learners increasing from 2007 to 2010, according to data from the California Department of

Education.

“We are grateful that the Foundation is our partner in supporting the needs of the hearts, souls, and minds of the children of the Ravenswood City School District,” said Ravenswood City School District Superintendent Maria De La Vega.

**About the Ravenswood Education Foundation** – The Ravenswood Education Foundation seeks to foster educational outcomes in the Ravenswood City School District that are on par with students from the surrounding communities. Since its inception four years ago, the Ravenswood Education Foundation has raised over \$3 million to benefit the Ravenswood City School District. The Foundation provides support in the areas of teaching excellence, parent engagement, and student achievement. The Ravenswood Education Foundation has more than 700 supporters. To become involved or to learn more, go to [www.ravenswoodef.org](http://www.ravenswoodef.org).