



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kristy Adams
kadams@booktrust.org
720-259-8048

October 10, 2019

Book Trust Expands Board Leadership
National early literacy organization welcomes six new Board members

Denver – National early literacy nonprofit Book Trust announces the addition of six nationally recognized leaders to guide the organization as it fulfills its mission to engage every child in book choice and ownership, cultivating literacy-rich communities. *Dharmendra Sahay* and *Karen Padgett* join the Board of Directors. *Rosario Ordoñez-Jasis, Ph.D.* and *Ana Taboada Barber, Ph.D.*, join the Academic Advisory Board. *Brittany Wimmer* joins the New York Advisory Board and *Heather Gossel* joins the Northern Colorado Advisory Board.

Book Trust’s Board of Directors provides overall organizational oversight and governance, while its regional Advisory Boards, including New York and Northern Colorado, provide connections within local communities and fundraising support. The Academic Advisory Board ensures Book Trust’s ongoing program enhancements and expansion are informed by the latest research and best practices in literacy education.

“Book Trust has a history of strong leadership guiding the organization, and these new Board members follow in that tradition. As we strive toward our five-year strategic plan of bringing Book Trust to an additional 40,000 students nationwide, their insights and experience are critical,” said Book Trust Board Chair Amy Kolczak.

Tiffany Kuehner, Book Trust President & CEO, said, “We couldn’t be more excited to welcome Dharmendra Sahay, Karen Padgett, Rosario Ordoñez-Jasis, Ana Taboada Barber, Brittany Wimmer, and Heather Gossel to Book Trust. We focus each and every day on delivering the best possible program for the 57,000 students we serve across 21 states now, and those we will serve in the future, as well as for our donors and partners. The skills each new Board member brings will help us achieve that goal.”

About the new Board Members:

Dharmendra Sahay is a Managing Partner and serves as the Global Leader of Integrated Analytics Solutions at ZS Associates. He has served on the ZS Board of Directors for more than 10 years and brings expertise in scaling programs and solutions.

Karen Padgett is the former Vice President of Antibody Business Unit & Digital Marketing at BioTechne and former CEO and President (Founder) of Novus Biologicals. She is committed to her community and has served on the executive committees for multiple Boards, including several with a focus in education.

Rosario Ordoñez-Jasis serves as the Chair, Department of Literacy and Reading Education at the College of Education, California State University, Fullerton. She studies family and community-based literacy; bilingualism, and the sociocultural context of literacy teaching and learning.

Ana Taboada Barber serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education and Special Education at the University of Maryland. She studies reading comprehension from a cognitive and motivational perspective with a special focus on Dual Language Learners and students who speak Spanish as their first language.

Brittany Wimmer is a Content and Post Producer at Hornet Inc. Brittany previously worked at Book Trust in Fort Collins, CO, where the organization was founded.

Heather Gossel is the Internal Communications Branch Chief/Intranet Editor-In-Chief for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Services (ARS). She is very active in her community and serves on the Police Services-Citizens Review Board, is Chapter Leader for Bold Betties, and is an active Rotarian.

Book Trust's vision is that every child discovers the joy and power of reading to create limitless possibilities. Book Trust empowers students in Title 1 elementary schools to choose, own, and love their own books. We believe that when children can make interest-based choices, they are building a lifetime love of learning along with essential literacy skills. Book Trust's program provides the opportunity for students to choose one to three books each month from the Scholastic Book Clubs catalogs (includes Spanish language and diverse book selections), building home libraries of up to 25 books per school year.

#

About Book Trust

Book Trust is a national early literacy organization with a vision that every child discovers the joy and power of reading to create limitless possibilities. Book Trust engages every child in book choice and ownership, cultivating literacy-rich communities. Founded in Fort Collins, CO in 2001 by the Schatz Family and supporting one classroom of kids, Book Trust has since grown to 21 states, from Hawaii to New York, and annually supports 57,000 children in choosing and owning more than one million books. Through the organization's key partnership with Scholastic Book Clubs, Book Trust students can choose from a variety of genres, languages, and reading levels. Learn more at booktrust.org.