

YES Charter Academy
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Biography for Paul McGovern, Chief Financial Officer, Council of Directors:

Paul is from Ireland and graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He has been CEO of Database Republic (DBR) for 14 years. DBR has developed and maintains workflow solutions for multiple California State agencies. It also developed and helped create the C2P platform for Compliance & Risks helping Fortune 500 companies monitor and manage regulatory change. He is Director of business development for Compliance and Risks and works with many Fortune 500 firms in the area of global environmental regulations.

As a teaching professional, he co-owned a children's summer tennis camp in Ireland and taught tennis to children up to international level. His awards include receiving Northern California Tennis Association teacher of the year.

Paul was a founder of YES and believes that YES plays a vital role in educating children to become academic masters, understand environmental issues and to contribute positively. He is also a founder of and actively involved in Good Food Farms a food Coop based in Oregon House. Good Food Farms grows year-round and delivers weekly produce to its local members.

Paul lives with his wife Natasha in Oregon House. He has one son, Oliver and likes to travel, play sport and read.

Biography for Louise Miller, Principal, Council of Directors:

Louise Miller is the Principal/Superintendent of Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy where she leads a dynamic school community. Educators at YES Charter Academy guide students as they apply the scientific method to solve real world environmental problems through hands on investigations and collaborative projects.

Louise earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from California State University, Chico, in 1983 and a Multiple Subject Credential from Chapman University in 1996. In 2010 she earned a master's in educational leadership and Administration from California State University, Chico, graduating with distinction.

In her over 20 year career as a teacher, she fulfilled roles such as teacher in charge, literacy coach, and Shady Creek Outdoor School principal. As a literacy coach Louise lead professional development, coached teachers, and analyzed data for school improvement. With special interests in literacy and science, she served on both English Language Arts and science curriculum adoption committees and developed year-long thematic units of study that integrated science,

social studies, writing, and art.

Louise reaches out to the community to create rich experiences for students. She has partnered with businesses and organizations to complete beautification projects, to hatch salmon eggs in the classroom, and to bring exciting field trips and assemblies to her students.

Her interests are native plants and pollinators. She is an avid gardener and member of the Xerces Society (What the Audubon Society is to birds, the Xerces Society is to bugs). A pollinator friendly California native landscape that she developed was featured in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Garden Tour in 2015. She is a beekeeper and was on the panel of tasters that developed the UC Davis Honey and Pollination Center Honey Flavor and Aroma Wheel. Her honey was a finalist for the Martha Stewart American Made Agriculture and Sustainability Award in 2014 and won Best of Show, Specialty Food at the 2015 Taste of Yuba Sutter.

Louise is married and has a blended family with children and grandchildren.

Bio and Qualifications – Wendy Underhill

Wendy Underhill retired after thirty years of state service with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2023. She was the manager of maintenance for the California State Water Project and all of its facilities, dams and lakes. She graduated the DWR Civil Maintenance Apprenticeship program in 1997 and went on to fill numerous technical positions within the department with an emphasis on computer analytics. She won the IT Leadership award from the California Public Sector Academy in 2023 for her work in computerizing maintenance practices and managing the asset program transformation for DWR. She has completed extensive managerial and supervision training and has project management, document management and staff management training and experience.

Wendy was born and educated in England and moved to the United States in 1975. She moved to Yuba foothills in 1995 and worked for DWR in Sacramento and Oroville locations. As the Chief Planner/Scheduler for DWR in Oroville, she was made the logistics team lead for the Oroville Dam spillway emergency in 2017 and is experienced in emergency management and formally trained in Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) practices.

Wendy is still an active consultant for DWR and has also provided some technical assistance to the North Yuba Water Agency. Her skills include communication, planning and scheduling, budgeting, computerized maintenance management systems, asset management, condition assessment and preventative maintenance and resource planning.

Her hobbies include gardening, woodworking, leatherwork and boating/fishing. She is the proud Mom of two dogs and three cats and too many hummingbirds to count! Her two goddaughters are graduates of YES Charter. Joining YES Charter Academy as a board member will allow her to continue to serve the public by using her management and maintenance experience to help the school to continue to improve.

Biography for Pamela Cook, Council Member, Council of Directors:

Pamela (Pam) Cook began working with children and families in 1973 as volunteer at a school for children with special needs through Future Teachers of America (FTA). She received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Northern Illinois University in 1974 and has been working with children and families since that time as a teacher, vocational counselor, Program Manager, and Director. In 1999, she joined the Yuba County Health and Human Services Department and continued to assist children and families overcome difficulties as a social worker and program manager with the Children and Adult Protective Services Division. Pam retired in 2018 after working with the County of Yuba for 19 years.

Pam moved from Oregon back to California to live on her grandparent's property in Dobbins just two months before the Pendola fire destroyed much of the Oregon House – Dobbins community. Her property was devastated and since that time she has been working to return/ improve her property/community to a natural and fire safe balance. Local activities include:

- Board President for the Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy - Board Secretary for the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council - Trustee for the Keystone Cemetery
- CalFire Volunteer in Prevention at Oregon Peak Lookout Tower every Sunday since 2000

Environmental issues are very important to her; she loves the out of doors and has turned her small property into a haven for local flora and fauna. Joining YES Charter Academy as a board member has been and will continue to be a wonderful opportunity to assist and support our local children and families while participating in/improving relevant environmental issues at the school level.

Deborah Hoerner, Council of Directors member

Deborah earned her degree in Communications from the University of Portland, Portland, Oregon, in 1972. She is married to architect Dick Hoerner and has 2 daughters. She has lived in Oregon House since 1978, with only a short break to live abroad. She also serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Elysian Society and volunteers her time helping people to complete end of life documents such as the Advanced Health Care Directive and a simple will.

For a few years after graduating from university, she traveled and worked in Europe. She returned to the US to live in California and, in 1980, a friend opened Urgent Care in Oroville and asked her to be the Office Manager. A year later, he opened another Urgent Care in Yuba City and she became the Office Manager there as well. Having wanderlust after working for 4 years, she moved to Madrid, Spain, where she worked as secretary to the head of CBS Records. Returning to California, she became the Supervisor in Medical Records at Fremont Hospital and after working there for 9 years, she accepted the opportunity to work at the newly opened clinic in Oregon House, which made her extremely happy not to have to commute any longer.

In 2010, Paul McGovern asked her to be the Office Manager at YES Charter Academy and she accepted. She told friends this was the best job she'd ever had because working closely with students, parents, teachers and ancillary staff was very satisfying. She retired from YES in 2019, returning to read to the kindergarten class and to attend many events.

She looks at participating on the Council of Directors at YES as coming home and looks forward to many years of service.

Lance Haliday, Council of Directors Teacher Representative Member

Lance Haliday earned his B.A. in Geography - Ecosystems from UCLA in 1983. He began teaching Jr. High full-time at a private school in the Los Angeles area shortly after while also getting his teaching credential in Social Sciences from Cal State University, Northridge. After five years of full-time teaching, Lance moved into an administrative position at the same private school and obtained his M.A. in Educational Administration from Cal State University, Northridge in 1993. He has served on the school board at his schools for over 35 years now and has served on various board committees.

Lance moved to Big Oak Valley in Nevada County in 2019 and worked in private school administration in Yuba City before returning to teaching. He is currently in his second year of teaching secondary school grades at Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy. He is married and has three adult children.

Elizabeth Yvette Rodriquez, Parent Representative Director:

I spent most of my young life in San Jose where I graduated high school. I learned general bookkeeping/accounting skills working with my parent's business as a teen. Started a family at 21. Returned to work when my son was 12. Became legal guardian of my grandnieces in 2018. Retired from Costco Sand City in March 2019 and moved our family to the Yuba County foothills to give our girls a better life and to be near my grandchildren.

Shelley Lehman, Director:

Shelley completed her undergraduate studies at UC Santa Barbara, and later received her degree along with a Lifetime Standard K-8 Teaching Credential from Cal State Hayward. Her teaching career began in Las Vegas where she taught English as a second Language to elementary students and adults. She studied Bilingual Education in Mexico City before returning to California. She taught upper elementary dual grade classes and summer programs for the children of migrant farm workers. While working as a Bilingual Consultant, Shelley began working toward her Learning Handicapped and Severely Handicapped Specialist Credentials, which later included Resource Specialist Credential, at Sonoma State University.

Shelley married Greg Lehman, who holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Biology, with an emphasis on plant ecology. Shelley and Greg lived on the cattle ranch he managed in Sonoma County where he also developed and ran a native plant nursery. They have a son, Lucas, a daughter-in-law, Maren, and grandchildren Maia and Beau.

From the Ranch on the top of Sonoma Mountain, Shelley commuted to Sebastopol where she worked as a Special Education teacher. She taught a 6-8th grade Special Day Class before she was transferred to what became a decades long assignment with K-5 SDC/RSP students. She worked with colleagues through the years to develop team approaches to better serve the needs of all students in the small school environment with limited resources. She was an initiator of, and became part of, the team that developed a successful whole school reading intervention program that served students with IEPs, those at risk, the general population, and the high achievers. She also developed and implemented a tutoring program that paired 5th grade students with at risk primary students in an afterschool reading buddies program.

While teaching, Shelley served as head of the Student Study Team and the 504 team. She was asked to serve as district Special Ed Coordinator, a position that she continued after retiring. In this part-time position she oversaw and consulted on the implementation of student's IEPs at the District's Independent Study Hybrid K-12 Charter School, and the IEPs of students requiring placement outside of the District. She represented the District at County Special Education meetings and facilitated District Sp. Ed. team meetings.

After fully retiring, Shelley and Greg moved to Browns Valley. They became aware of the Yes Charter Academy through word of mouth. The emphasis on Environmental Science and the project oriented curriculum provides a positive alternative for students in this area. Both the Lehmans relate to, and fully support, the mission of Yes Academy.