



Field Institute of Taos

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Dear FIT Families and Friends,

Happy end of summer and start of the school year! We are reaching out to share some exciting things that are happening here at Field Institute of Taos. As we move into the fall, our amazing and visionary founder, Susie Fiore, will be stepping down from the role of Executive Director after 28 years at the helm. Susie will continue to work within FIT as our leader for all bike-related activities, special projects, and support for our new Executive Director, Elizabeth LeBlanc!

Susie founded FIT in 1996 with a desire to blend a strong connection with the natural world along with background in experiential field science, outdoor skills, and working with children. Susie's curious mind, adventurous soul, and sense of pure, playful fun (plus her background in geology and archeology) have been at the center of FIT since day one! Over the years, FIT has become an integral part of the Taos community, expanding opportunities for kids on mountain tops, trails, riverbanks, and everywhere else we can get kids active, playing, and learning outdoors. "I am so grateful for the support of all the families, our exceptional staff, and FIT's committed Board of Directors for so many years. Witnessing so much growth and having countless opportunities to work and play outside with amazing young people has been rewarding, fun, and life changing. Thank you all for believing in FIT and trusting us with your children."

Field Institute of Taos is positively thrilled to welcome Elizabeth LeBlanc as our incoming Executive Director. Elizabeth LeBlanc comes to FIT with a deep love of the outdoors and commitment to the children of our community, and brings leadership experience from the worlds of education, nonprofit, and business. Elizabeth is the founder of the Taos Education Collaborative, a community-led education initiative that supports increased equity of access to educational opportunities for all learners. Formerly, Elizabeth served as co-founder and CEO of the Institute for Teaching and Learning (i4tl) and on the board of its nonprofit research center. Elizabeth has over 20 years in K-12 education, most recently as principal at Taos Academy Charter School. She has volunteered with Little Ripples as an Expert Teacher Adviser, helping cultivate refugee-led preK education, and is a doctoral candidate with the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education's Global Executive Program. Elizabeth is a longtime Taos resident and the parent of two FIT children.

Susie and Elizabeth will be working together closely to ensure a seamless transition and positive future for the organization that they both love deeply. Our team invites you to drop by and say hi or to reach out to connect with us directly. Let's celebrate as we move ahead!

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