



**CHESS** *for*  
**SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>

2701 NW Vaughn Street, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97210  
503-295-1230 | 800-285-7660 | Fax: 503-295-4908 | [www.chessforsuccess.org](http://www.chessforsuccess.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CHESS FOR SUCCESS ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Portland, Ore., February 8, 2016—Chess for Success announces the appointment of five new members of its Board of Directors, and its slate for 2016.

Joining the Board of Directors are Dick Alexander, Greg Hazelton, Chris Huth, LaShawn Lee, and Ngoni Murandu. “Our new board members bring wide-ranging expertise and talent to the leadership of Chess for Success, as we continue our three-year, capacity-building strategic plan. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the education of children in our region will help strengthen and expand the reach of Chess for Success in our efforts to help at-risk children develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and life skills that will enable them to succeed in and out of school,” Julie Young, Executive Director.

Dick Alexander is senior counsel at Stoel Rives and has been with the firm since 1977 where he practices in the Construction and Design group. His practice includes negotiating agreements and litigation, arbitration, and claims work on major construction projects. An ardent chess player, Alexander was a tournament volunteer with Chess for Success before joining the Board of Directors.

Greg Hazelton is the senior vice president and chief financial officer of NW Natural Gas Co. and was previously with Hawaiian Electric Industries, where he was the vice president of finance, and treasurer and controller. Prior, he held various positions in investment banking at Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers and, most recently, UBS Investment Bank, where he was a managing director in the Global Power and Utilities Group. Hazelton also held various accounting, finance and business development positions with Portland General Electric.

Chris Huth is Oregon Commercial Banking Relationship Manager at U.S. Bank. Chris serves businesses with revenues ranging from \$20 million to \$500 million, providing banking services including credit, treasury management, payment processing, merchant services, international services and equipment leasing.

LaShawn Lee is principal at Portland’s Faubion K-8 at Tubman, one of 81 Chess for Success school sites and the first to offer chess as an elective during the school day for middle school students. Originally from Rock Hill, SC, Lee was raised in a family that valued education and chose teaching as their profession. A mother of four, two in medical school, Lee has been an educator for more than 28 years. Her philosophy is that education cannot be comprised.

MORE

*Helping children succeed, one move at a time.*

Ngoni Murandu is chief information officer at NW Natural Gas Co. Before joining NW Natural, Murandu spent six years as senior vice president and chief information officer at NANA Development Corp in Anchorage. He has also worked for Mylan Inc., a global pharmaceutical company, West Virginia Health Sciences Center, the National Institute for Occupational Safety, IBM, and Price Waterhouse.

The 12-member slate is as follows:

- President: Brian Jolly, Kivel & Howard LP
- Treasurer: Charles Engelberg, Retired CFO
- Secretary: Rex Wallace, Cambia Health Solutions
- Richard Alexander, Stoel Rives
- Dennis Bash, Corporate Sponsorships Consultant
- Brandi Cook, Dynamic Events, Inc.
- Chet Edwards, Education Options Associates
- Greg Hazelton, NW Natural
- Chris Huth, US Bank
- Lashawn Lee, Faubion School
- Phillip Margolin, Author
- Ngoni Murandu, NW Natural
- Ex Officio: Julie Young, Executive Director

*The mission of Chess for Success is to help children develop the skills necessary for success in school and in life through chess. Chess for Success after-school programming develops critical-thinking, problem-solving, and life skills that improve self-confidence; behavior; interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields; and academic performance. Long-term, the goal is to increase the high school graduation rate and college/workforce readiness in Oregon and SW Washington, ending the cycle of generational poverty. This year, Chess for Success is serving approximately 3,400 children and 81 schools and presenting the 49th annual Oregon State Chess Tournament, as well as the city of Portland, Girls Play Chess, and 24 regional tournaments--open to all K-12 students in Oregon. For more information, please call Julie Young, Executive Director, at (503) 290-1230 or visit [www.chessforsuccess.org](http://www.chessforsuccess.org).*

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