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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Student Sponsor Partners Announces New Chief Financial Officer**

*Kathleen Berkery Brings over 30 Years of Executive Finance Experience to Support NYC Nonprofit's Mission and Growth*

NEW YORK, NY — January 22, 2022

Student Sponsor Partners (SSP) today announced that Kathleen Berkery, CPA has joined its leadership team as the new Chief Financial Officer. The New York City nonprofit has provided opportunities for students in underserved communities through scholarships and mentorships for 35 years and conducted an executive search for this role. To ensure a smooth transition, Kathleen will work closely with SSP's Executive Director Debra De Jesus Vizzi and the finance team.

This appointment comes at a critical time for SSP and the New York City community. The impact that COVID-19 has had on low-income families is unparalleled and further highlights the need for opportunities that help break the cycle of poverty. SSP continues to work diligently to reach even more students each year with its integrated and life-changing programs.

Kathleen brings significant executive finance experience to this role. Her extensive background in accounting and financial management, including strategic planning, budgeting, legal and regulatory reporting, tax compliance, and internal control reviews, enables her to help create long-term sustainability for the organization. Kathleen also has experience in business development and financial advisory activities, including sophisticated estate planning strategies, business succession, and retirement planning services.

"We are constantly evolving to adapt to the changing education and social landscapes," said Debra De Jesus Vizzi, "and we are confident that Kathleen will contribute to our efforts for growth and impact."

In addition to her certified public accountant license, Kathleen holds Series 7, Series 63, and Series 65 licenses and has a license in Life and Health. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting, Cum Laude from Siena College. Previous employers include Credit Suisse, Donaldson, Hilton Capital Management, KPMG, Lufkin & Jenrette, and Mass Mutual, where she led and spearheaded new initiatives resulting in record-breaking success.

***About Student Sponsor Partners***

*Student Sponsor Partners (SSP) is a New York City nonprofit that harnesses the power of quality high school education, one-on-one mentorship, and college and career programming to help students in underserved communities escape the cycle of poverty and reach their highest potential. For over 35 years, our programs have elevated the lives of thousands of minority students by providing equal opportunity and access. SSP is ever-evolving with the education and social landscapes and continues to create a far-reaching impact on students, their communities, and beyond. Learn more at [sspnyc.org](http://sspnyc.org).*