

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Student Assistance Welcomes Two National Education Experts to Board of Directors

BOSTON – June 17, 2020 – American Student Assistance® ([ASA](http://asa.org)), the national nonprofit dedicated to helping students make informed choices about their education and career goals, today announced the addition of two prominent education leaders to its board of directors. The new members are Carla Thompson Payton, vice president for program strategy at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and Alex Rappaport, co-founder and former CEO of Flocabulary, a music-based learning platform for students in grades K-12.

“In their respective fields, Carla and Alex have been leaders and drivers of change for students across the country, and their deep understanding of issues across equity, technology and learning will guide ASA in our efforts to help students pursue their own passions and paths,” said **Jean Eddy, president and CEO of ASA**. “We are grateful to have these accomplished experts bringing their unique perspectives to help advance our mission and support students as our country looks to preparing for both the future of learning and the future of work.”

[Carla Thompson Payton](#) is responsible for the overall strategic direction and leadership of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, a national philanthropic foundation based in Battle Creek, Michigan, that is dedicated to assuring all children have an equitable and promising future so our nation can thrive. She has been honored for her leadership in early childhood education by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, the Children’s Defense Fund and the Temple University Institute on Disabilities. She also has served on boards and committees for many nonprofit associations and professional organizations. In addition, she is the author of three publications related to school readiness and advocacy. Thompson Payton received her bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University. She holds a master’s degree in Social Work and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

[Alex Rappaport](#) is an entrepreneur with a focus on education and social enterprise. Under Alex’s leadership as co-founder and CEO, Flocabulary reached millions of students around the world and was successfully acquired by Nearpod in 2019. Together, the two companies support students and educators through a comprehensive learning and engagement platform. He is also on the advisory board of Music in Schools Today, a nonprofit that supports and develops music programming to help underserved students achieve. Rappaport was named one of Fast Company’s Most Creative People in Business and is an Executive Member of the International Association of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS). He is a frequent speaker on education, innovation and entrepreneurship at education and business events worldwide. Rappaport graduated from Tufts University with a degree in music.

To view the full ASA board of directors, visit www.asa.org/aboutus.

About American Student Assistance® (ASA)

American Student Assistance® (ASA) is a national nonprofit committed to helping kids know themselves, know their options, and make informed choices to achieve their education and career goals. ASA® has a 60-year legacy of working directly with students to increase their access to higher education through loans and financial education. ASA has turned its experience into impactful

solutions for students in grades 6-12 to help them pursue their dreams. To learn more about ASA, visit www.asa.org/about-us

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