Looking Back (to School): Early Lessons from Fall 2020

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Austin Beutner ’82 P’19

Austin Beutner is a civic leader, philanthropist and former business executive who has worked for the last decade to make Los Angeles a stronger community. Mr. Beutner was appointed Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District in May 2018. He has served as First Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, Publisher and CEO of the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union Tribune and Co-Chair of the LA 2020 Commission and the L.A. Unified Advisory Task Force.

At age 29, he became the youngest partner at The Blackstone Group. He left Blackstone to serve in the U.S. government, where he led efforts to help Russia transition to a market economy after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He went on to found Evercore Partners and as President and Co-CEO helped build the firm into one of the leading independent investment banks in the world.

He holds a degree in economics from Dartmouth College, and has taught courses in ethics, leadership and effective government at Harvard Business School, University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy, the UCLA Anderson School of Management, and California State University Northridge.

He currently serves on the board of the National Park Foundation, is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He founded Vision To Learn, a non-profit organization that provides free eye exams and glasses to children in low-income communities across the country.