

Contact Person: Ms. Maggie Son
Ph: (415) 397-0285
Fx: (415) 986-6786
Email: son@shcowell.org

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S. H. COWELL FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The S. H. Cowell Foundation is pleased to announce that [Lisa Backus](#), [Mikiko Huang](#) and [Deborah Ortiz](#) have been elected to the [board of directors](#).

Dr. Backus works at the Department of Veteran's Affairs Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards. She began her career by assuring the quality of HIV care nationwide and now monitors a range of public health issues, including avian flu, pandemic flu, hepatitis C and healthcare-related infections. Dr. Backus is deeply committed to the wellbeing of San Francisco's poorest communities and volunteers at a free clinic at San Francisco General Hospital. She also serves on the advisory board for several of the National Center for Disease Control Prevention's projects. She holds a B.S. from Harvard University; completed a Ph.D. at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar; and graduated from University of California, San Francisco Medical School, where she also completed a medical residency in internal medicine.

Dr. Huang has been a practicing pediatrician in San Francisco for over 20 years. She has a strong commitment to community involvement and serves on the board of Marin Country Day School (MCDS) and the advisory board of Beyond Borders, an MCDS-sponsored program that brings together Bay Area children from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds to share in a summer experience where stereotypes are broken down and respect, collaboration and creativity are fostered. Dr. Huang also serves on the Health Advisory Group and the Bay Area Advisory Council of Common Sense Media (CSM), a non-partisan nonprofit that is dedicated to improving the media and entertainment

lives of kids and families. Dr. Huang also serves on the board of directors of Camp Tawonga. She graduated from Harvard University and Baylor College of Medicine.

Ms. Ortiz was elected to the California State Senate in 1998 where she served until reaching her term limit in December 2006. As chair of the Senate Health Committee, she was responsible for making California the first state in the nation to expressly authorize embryonic stem cell research and enact a statewide biomonitoring program to measure chemicals Californians are exposed to and carry in their bodies. She authored legislation to create a state Department of Public Health and to fund gender-specific cancers, such as breast, ovarian, testicular and prostate cancers. She also passed the landmark Cal Grant Scholarship program that guarantees financial assistance to needy students that attend California schools and universities. Prior to her election to the State Senate, Ms. Ortiz served on the Sacramento City Council where she chaired the Ad Hoc Committee to create the Neighborhood Services Department. In 1996, she received the Sacramento Housing Alliance Award for improving housing in Sacramento's toughest neighborhoods. In the same year, she was elected to the State Assembly and served there for two terms. Ms. Ortiz attended the University of California at Davis and graduated from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

The S. H. Cowell Foundation invests \$9 million annually in low-income Northern California communities by supporting family resource centers, K-12 education, youth development, the development of affordable homes and leadership development. Visit www.shcowell.org for more information on the Foundation.

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