



KIPP Academy Lynn Executive Director Caleb Dolan, center, with students Jerry Merida, Victor Rivera and Angela Unbun.

## Dolan assumes leadership of KIPP Lynn

Growing up in Maine, Caleb Dolan was raised in a family where quality education was a top priority. Watching his dad serve as chairman of the local school board for 32 years, Dolan knew he wanted to continue his family's legacy, something he has been doing since he joined Teach for America straight out of college. As the newly-named Co-Executive Director of KIPP Academy Lynn (KAL), Dolan will serve alongside Josh Zoia, KAL's Founding Principal and Executive Director, for the next school year, and will take over in 2012.

Starting out as a young teacher in rural North Carolina, Dolan did everything he could to make a difference for the kids he taught, confined by the limits of a failing education system. He had no idea that in just a few years, he would go on to build and lead a highly successful charter school, built from the ground up on a local peanut field.

After completing the Fisher Fellowship — a yearlong program that prepares educators to found and lead new KIPP schools in underserved areas — Dolan founded KIPP Gaston College Preparatory in 2001. Under Dolan's leadership, KIPP Gaston grew from just 80 fifth-grade students to more than 650 students in grades 5–12. Every student in the school's first three graduating classes was accepted to college.

Dolan and Zoia met through Teach for America, and have

kept in touch over the years. While Dolan was building KIPP Gaston, Zoia was forging his own path towards founding KIPP Academy Lynn. Just a few years after Dolan recruited students to join a school that was, at the time, an empty peanut field, Zoia went door to door in Lynn recruiting students to join a school that was just a few rooms in a church basement. From the start, both leaders have shown the grit, determination, and passion necessary to build high-quality public schools in underserved communities.

**“WE HAVE GROWN INTO AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS BIGGER THAN ONE PERSON.”**

“Josh and I have a long-standing friendship,” Dolan said. “He is a spectacular visionary and the driving force behind the success of KIPP Lynn. I can learn a lot from him.”

KIPP Massachusetts, as the regional organization is now called, has built a highly skilled Leadership Team and Board with experience in growing mission-driven organizations to

sustainability. With the founding ninth-grade class of KAL Collegiate High School starting this fall, a brand new middle and high school facility opening in 2012, and a K-8 KIPP Boston opening soon, the organization will serve 2,100 students across five schools in Lynn and Boston by 2018.

Zoia will be moving to New York with his wife and two children to be closer to family. He is proud to have helped build a program and team that is set up for long-term success.

“We have grown into an organization that is bigger than any one person,” said Zoia. “Through the dedication of our students, families and staff, KIPP Academy Lynn has become one of the highest performing public schools in the state. I am excited to pass the baton to Caleb and watch KIPP Massachusetts grow under his lead.”

Dolan echoed Zoia's sentiments.

“What has been built here at KIPP Lynn is remarkable,” he said. “The foundation is in place for us to not only serve more kids and families, but to really be an example of a successful, sustainable model of urban education for others to follow.”

“This has been the best career and life path I could have taken,” said Dolan, whose wife Joanna is a college counselor at a Boston charter school. They have a 19-month-old daughter, Tallulah.