

What Our Clients Say

*Real Experiences From the
Partners We Serve*



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In my three decades as a nonprofit leader, I've worked with many consultants, which has made me fairly particular about both the experience and the outcomes I want for our organization. This project was no exception. Our board issued an RFP, carefully reviewed proposals, and interviewed multiple firms before selecting The Callahan Collaborative—not only for the strength of their strategic planning process, but for the warmth, authenticity, and ease we felt with the facilitator, Robin Callahan.

Robin has a rare gift for convening people and guiding them through complex issues in a way that feels productive, respectful, and even energizing. What initially seemed overwhelming was broken into manageable, meaningful pieces. In the end, no one felt like we had “eaten an elephant,” yet we walked away with something we built together—work that gave us clarity, alignment, and confidence to move forward.”

Traci Skalberg, CEFL • Executive Director, Central Community College Foundation, Hastings, NE

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When we began working with The Callahan Collaborative, our goal was to build a strong, strategic education foundation rooted in community voice and aligned with our school district's priorities. With a tight timeline and high expectations for our launch, partnering with The Callahan Collaborative was the single most important decision we made.

Robin and her team bring exceptional depth of knowledge about the education foundation sector, paired with a practical understanding of how to move from vision to implementation. Robin offers clear strategy, actionable guidance, and seasoned insight that helped us avoid missteps and accelerate progress.

She is also incredibly generous with her network, consistently connecting us with peer organizations across the country to strengthen our learning and confidence. Her team is dynamic, responsive, thoughtful, and genuinely invested in our success. Because of this partnership, we are launching with clarity, credibility, accountability, and real momentum.”



Devon Wade • Director of Community and Investor Relations, Charleston County School District Education Foundation, Charleston, SC





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When we began working together, I was looking for a strategic partner who understood the unique role of an education foundation, and I knew Robin did after reading her book, which I absolutely love. I was seeking guidance to help strengthen our systems, governance, and development strategies as we continue growing Educate Fairfax.

Working with The Callahan Collaborative has been both thoughtful and practical. Robin brings deep sector knowledge along with clear, actionable guidance that reflects the distinct role education foundations play within school systems. Her insights have helped me think more strategically about our foundation–district relationship, governance structures such as our MOU and Board Development, and ways to diversify fundraising and ensure long-term sustainability. I especially value the way Robin balances encouragement with an honest perspective. Her partnership has been incredibly valuable as we continue building the next chapter of Educate Fairfax and expanding our impact in support of Fairfax County Public Schools."

Dr. Lynette Henry, CEFL • Executive Director, Educate Fairfax, Fairfax, VA

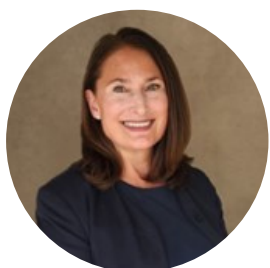
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When I stepped into my role as Executive Director of the Snohomish Education Foundation, I knew we needed to strengthen our fundraising strategy, improve internal structure, and more deeply engage our Board of Trustees to support long-term growth. Robin Callahan has been instrumental in helping us do exactly that. She brings strategic clarity, steady leadership, and an ability to translate big vision into actionable systems that actually work.



Working with Robin is both energizing and grounding—she listens carefully, asks the right questions, and isn't afraid to challenge assumptions in a way that leads to meaningful progress. Because of her partnership, we've seen measurable revenue growth (doubled in 2.5 years!), stronger board engagement, improved operational structure, and a clearer path forward. As a new Executive Director, her guidance has saved me an extraordinary amount of time and helped me focus on leading instead of constantly reacting. Her impact on SEF's trajectory has been significant and lasting."

Erica Cenci, CEFL • Executive Director, Snohomish Education Foundation, Snohomish, WA



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We partnered with The Callahan Collaborative to bring greater clarity, structure, and long-term sustainability to the South Kitsap Public Schools Foundation. What we experienced was catalytic. They combine heart for mission with governance rigor, helping our board engage more strategically and confidently. The result is a stronger foundation — structurally and culturally — positioned to amplify impact for generations. Because of this work, we are better equipped to ensure every South Kitsap student thrives now and for generations to come."

Carol Kowalski, CAP® • Board Member, South Kitsap Public Education Foundation, Port Orchard, WA