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Washington Women's Foundation Introduces New Leadership Team

Carla Lewis Succeeds Founder Colleen Willoughby as President

SEATTLE—(Sept. 18, 2008)—At its fall kick-off meeting today, the Washington Women's Foundation will introduce a new leadership team to take the organization to the next level of growth, impact and success. Heading up the team is Carla Lewis, who recently joined the foundation as president following a 25-year career in senior management roles at Microsoft Corporation and Paccar, Inc.

Lewis succeeds Colleen Willoughby, the organization's founder and leader since 1995. Willoughby announced plans to step down as president last fall. She will continue to serve on the Washington Women's Foundation board and work on initiatives related to the role of women in philanthropy.

“We are positioning the foundation to change the course of women in philanthropy through the power of collective thinking and giving,” said Lewis. “We welcome all women who want to combine their resources to make a positive difference in our community.” Since the foundation's inception as a grant-making and educational institution 13 years ago, members have donated \$8.4 million to nonprofit organizations throughout Washington State.

Lewis brings to her new role extensive experience in the nonprofit community in addition to her corporate background in strategic planning, business management, finance and communications. She currently serves on the boards of the Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Public Library Foundation and Forest Ridge School. She previously was a board member at the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle Opera, Providence Medical Center and Make-A-Wish Foundation. Lewis has been an active member of the Washington's Women Foundation since 1995, serving on the finance committee, as co-leader of several grant work groups, and as vice chair of the grant committee.

Since assuming the helm of the Washington Women's Foundation, Lewis has assembled an accomplished team of professionals to streamline foundation operations and grant-making activities.

Marion DeForest is promoted to deputy director, responsible for overall management of finance, governance, business operations and board relations. She also is staff liaison to the grants, impact assessment and cabinet committees. DeForest served as executive director of Seattle Works before joining the Washington Women's Foundation office in 2005. She earned a bachelor's degree at Yale University and an executive master's degree in nonprofit leadership at Seattle University.

Megan Davies is the newly appointed program manager, serving as staff liaison to the foundation's membership, education, communications and resource development committees. Davies previously worked as a nonprofit consultant and with Hadassah, one of the world's largest women's membership organizations. She is a graduate of Vassar College and earned her master of public administration at the University of Washington.

Schuyler Charf is manager of information and communications systems, responsible for many aspects of member relations, donor services, e-newsletters, and board and committee support. Charf joined the foundation office three years ago and most recently managed the implementation of the organization's new website and database. She graduated from Carleton College.

In recognition of Willoughby's leadership, the foundation's board of directors established the Colleen S. Willoughby Endowment Fund in 2006. At a recent event honoring her retirement and contributions to the foundation, friends and members raised more than \$145,000, bringing the balance in the fund to \$2.4 million.

As president of the Washington Women's Foundation, Willoughby built a new philanthropic model that recognized the growing earning power and leadership of women. She believed women had a greater role to play in philanthropy and set out to leverage women's financial capacity through informed, collective giving. During her tenure, the foundation grew from 116 members in 1995 to nearly 500 members today.

To learn more about the Washington Women's Foundation, visit www.wawomensfoundation.org.

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