



Rochester Area  
Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

**Karel Weigel named Interim President following the resignation of JoAnn Stormer**

Rochester, MN (August 22, 2016) – The Rochester Area Foundation Board of Trustees announced today that JoAnn Stormer has resigned as President of the Rochester Area Foundation and Karel Weigel has been selected as the Interim President.

Ms. Stormer stepped down on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> to enable her return to her family and home in Wisconsin. Ms. Stormer provided over 4 years of service and leadership to the Rochester Area Foundation, engaging with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations and agencies in the Rochester area. During this time, she also oversaw and coordinated the Foundation's recent move to its new home on Broadway and Elton Hills Drive. The new facility not only provides added affordable community meeting spaces, but a unique opportunity for emerging nonprofit organizations to take advantage of an "incubator" concept for office space and shared services.

"The Board and staff of the Rochester Area Foundation are so appreciative of the leadership provided by Ms. Stormer since she arrived in Rochester in 2012, and we wish her the best as she returns to Wisconsin," said Wendy Shannon, Chair of Rochester Area Foundation's Board of Trustees. "Karel Weigel is a tremendous leader, and I am confident her management experience and passion for philanthropy will serve the foundation well during this transition."

Ms. Weigel has extensive leadership and community experience both as Mayo Clinic's former Administrator for Community Relations and as the founding chair of the Rochester Area Foundation's First Homes Board of Directors. She has also served on the boards of Olmsted County Social Services and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. She currently serves as a Co-Chair of a United Way Community Investment Team. As an active Rotarian, she recently served as a Rotary International District Governor for our region.

"I am honored to serve as Interim President for this organization that I have worked with for a number of years. The Rochester Area Foundation has a long history of providing impactful and flexible giving opportunities for donors, funding for nonprofits through grantmaking, and providing leadership on key community issues, and I intend to further those missions during my time in this position," said Karel Weigel.

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### **About the Rochester Area Foundation**

Established in 1944, the Rochester Area Foundation is a collection of separate charitable funds set up by individuals, families, nonprofit organizations, and businesses that are managed, invested, and disbursed for the current and future good of the Rochester area. Learn more at [www.rochesterarea.org](http://www.rochesterarea.org)