

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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YWCA Southeast Wisconsin Begins Search for Next President & CEO Paula Penabaker to Retire after Twenty Years of Service and Leadership

Milwaukee, WI, May 1, 2019 – YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, a member of the YWCA USA network, announced today it has engaged executive recruitment services to begin an immediate national search for a new President and CEO. Paula Penabaker, who will celebrate twenty years with YWCA in June, will retire later this year following the appointment of the new President and CEO, and serve as an executive advisor during the immediate transition.

Now in its 126th year of service, under Penabaker's leadership YWCA SEW has produced efficient, effective programs and services that touch the lives of thousands, as well as the thought leadership, community building and advocacy work necessary to build a more racially just and economically vibrant tomorrow.

Penabaker joined YWCA Greater Milwaukee in 1999 as Chief Human Resources and Facilities Officer and was appointed Executive Director in May 2005 and shortly thereafter, President and CEO. She began her work at YWCA following a career in the corporate sphere that included 13 years with The Proctor and Gamble Company and was capped off by serving as Vice President and Diversity Manager at Firststar Bank. From 2013 to 2016, she also served as Board President for YWCA USA.

During her tenure, the organization's service area grew beyond metro-Milwaukee and as of 2012 serves Southeast Wisconsin, with offices in Milwaukee and Racine. Penabaker oversaw dramatic growth in adult education services, including the region's premier and still growing HSED program and expanded the breadth and depth of the organization's reinvented racial justice programming, including the co-creation of YWCA SEW's course Unlearning Racism: Tools for Action©. This course is now a signature offering of YWCA SEW's racial justice work, for which it is hailed as a trailblazer within the YWCA USA network.

YWCA SEW Board Chair Lois Smith noted, "When Paula approached the Board of Directors about her retirement, we committed to in depth succession planning. We are well aware that YWCA SEW's future

service to the region is possible because of Paula's distinctive service. She has established YWCA SEW as one of the premier YWCAs in the nation and has firmly established the organization as a key regional leader focused on racial justice and access to economic opportunity for women with limited resources."

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eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

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Penebaker's community engagement will continue through her service on the Boards of Directors of Rotary Club of Milwaukee and Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., and as a Trustee of the Public Policy Forum and Milwaukee County Federated Library System. Following assisting with the transition to new leadership, she will continue her award-winning work to eliminate racism and empower women with select consulting projects.

Reflecting on her years of service at YWCA SEW, Penebaker shared, "I am humbled to have had the opportunity to devote two decades of my career to this extraordinary mission and am confident my successor will enjoy working with a talented leadership team and actively engaged Board of Directors."

About YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

With a bold mission to eliminate racism and empower women, YWCA SEW's work has three focus areas shared by YWCAs nationwide: racial justice, economic empowerment, and health/safety of women and their families. Serving 12,000+ individuals annually, YWCA SEW equips, and challenges our community to commit itself to peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all through efficient and effective service. This combination of economic empowerment and racial justice programming is YWCA SEW's formula for creating a more just and equitable community.

For more information, visit www.ywcasew.org, or find us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

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