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Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio Names New Executive Director

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio is pleased to announce the appointment of Beth Yoke as its new Executive Director, effective March 11, 2024.

Yoke, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience, most recently served as the Chief Strategy Officer for the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library from 2018–2024. Prior to her role there, she held the position of Executive Director at the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) for fourteen years, showcasing her commitment to not-for-profit leadership and organizational development. Yoke's extensive background also includes experience as a university and high school librarian, as well as an elementary school teacher.

During her tenure at YALSA, Yoke demonstrated her strategic acumen by establishing a Leadership Endowment, fostering corporate partnerships, and successfully securing multiple grants. Collaborating with the Board of Directors, she played a pivotal role in re-envisioning and expanding member engagement opportunities, earning YALSA the prestigious BoardSource Innovation Prize. Yoke's leadership was marked by overseeing strategic planning initiatives and implementing processes to integrate data-driven decision-making within organizations.

Nick Milazzo, Chair of the Workforce Council Board, expressed confidence in Yoke's capabilities, stating, "Beth brings robust experience in not-for-profit leadership, strategic execution, and organizational development. I am confident her expertise will drive forward our mission of creating a prepared workforce in Cincinnati."

As Yoke assumes her role at the Workforce Council, she is eager to align her priorities with the organization's vision, particularly focusing on expanding services for youth and developing resources to guide them toward productive careers. Leveraging her grant-writing experience, Yoke aims to secure grants that will enhance the Council's capacity and further its community outreach efforts.

Milazzo recognized the influence of past Executive Director, Jason Ashbrook, saying, "The Workforce Council has been fortunate to have tremendous leadership over the past few years. We extend our deepest gratitude to Jason Ashbrook for his exemplary guidance and dedication to workforce development. We wish him the best in his new role."

Additionally, the Board is grateful to Pamela Massey for her contributions as Interim Executive Director of the Workforce Council. Milazzo says, “Pam’s steadfast action and commitment have been instrumental during this transition period. Her service has been invaluable.”

The Workforce Council anticipates an era of positive evolution under Yoke's leadership, building upon the strong foundation laid by previous directors. As the organization enters this new chapter, the Board remains dedicated to its mission of workforce development, creating a lasting impact within the Cincinnati community.

About Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio

The Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio, formerly the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, is an independent, nonpartisan organization focused on workforce development and innovation in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Our diverse Board of Directors is comprised of regional leaders from business, education, organized labor, non-profit, and government. We oversee and implement the local area’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and collaborate with regional workforce partners to help strengthen the Tri-state’s workforce ecosystem. We lead this work by setting the vision, policy, and performance expectations for the OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) regional workforce development system. The OMJ system and partners serve employers, job seekers, dislocated workers, veterans, youth & young adults, individuals with disabilities, returning citizens, and more. To learn more, visit <https://cincyworkforce.org/>

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