



**United Way
of Lawton-Fort Sill**

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Media Release

January 21, 2014

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United Way Executive Director Resigns – National Search for New Director Underway

Lawton, Okla - Katie Noffske, Executive Director for the United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill (soon to be the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma), has notified the United Way Board of her resignation, effective February 20, 2014. Noffske has accepted a position as CEO of the United Way of Amarillo, Texas.

“I have, and will continue to be, so very honored to have been part of the United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill,” said Noffske, who has been serving in the position since early 2011. “This organization and this community have been so good to me over the three years I have served as executive director.”

John Noel, current President and Chairman of the Board of the Lawton-Fort Sill United Way, will take the helm of daily oversight while the Board completes a national search for a new Executive Director. Noel, who serves as the Director of Adult Career Development with Great Plains Technology Center, has already appointed a search committee to begin the process, and hopes to have the position filled by early March. “Katie has helped the Board begin to move in new directions,” said Noel. “She leaves a very capable and dedicated team to continue the important work of becoming a Community Impact model United Way.”

During Noffske’s term, the United Way officially took steps to become the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma, a change of both name and resource development. “The assigned service area for the Lawton Fort Sill United Way includes nine counties across Southwest Oklahoma, excluding only those few communities that have United Way organizations in place,” said Noffske. “By changing the name, this organization is able to seek resources from communities that are being supported through our efforts, but do not have fundraising campaigns that allow them to contribute to the needs in their areas.” Noffske also provided guidance as the United Way took first steps toward becoming a Community Impact model. Historically, the United Way has measured its impact by how many people its agencies reached; now, like most other United Ways across the world, it wants to begin to apply its resources in ways that make measurable – and lasting impact - in the community. The United Way works to understand and address top priorities in the community, which the organization has framed within three focus areas: advancing education by working to cut the dropout rate, addressing the low income effects in the community by working to cut in half the number of lower-income families who are financially unstable and improving community health by increasing the number of youth and adults who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors.

The Search Committee is chaired by Danny Hale, who also chairs the Personnel Committee. Hale is Director of Human Resources & Education Services at Southwestern Medical Center in Lawton. “Our goal is to identify a new Executive Director with strong entrepreneurial experience that can help our United Way move to the next level and begin to make measurable impacts on critical needs in our service area.”

Minimum requirements for the executive director position begin with a Baccalaureate degree, three years of experience in non-profit management and fund-raising, and five years of supervisory/management experience. A Masters' degree and grant writing experience are among the preferred qualifications.

The deadline for applications is set for Friday, February 14. For more information on the position visit <http://www.uwlawton.org/>. Interviews for the position are expected to begin before the end of February. Hale said the Search Committee will review applications and narrow them down to a number of candidates feasible to interview. Upon completion of the interview process, the Search Committee will make a recommendation to the full board.

About the United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill:

The United Way funds 19 local agencies and their various programs that address community issues. The United Way is a charitable organization and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the local community to fulfill its mission. For more information, please visit www.uwlawton.org.

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