



United Way  
of Southwest Oklahoma

United Way  
**SUCCESS BY 6**<sup>™</sup>  
A Smart Start Oklahoma Community

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## Media Release

April 24, 2014

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# United Way Names New Executive Director

**Lawton, Okla** – Southwest Oklahoma native Lauren Ellis has been named Executive Director of the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma (formerly the United Way of Lawton-Fort Sill). Ellis succeeds Katie Noffske, who accepted a position as CEO of the United Way of Amarillo, Texas.

“We are excited about having someone of Lauren’s caliber on board,” said John Noel, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. “She brings a wealth of experience and skills in campaign design and marketing, campaign planning, team building, and project implementation, as well as a great knowledge of the southwest Oklahoma community. With her leadership, we will continue to expand the impact of United Way on quality of life across southwest Oklahoma.”

Ellis currently serves as the Executive Director for the United Way Stephens County, Oklahoma, and has been in that position since 2011. From 2009 to 2011 she served as Capital Campaign Coordinator for the Duncan Public Schools Foundation.

“I am so excited about working with the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma,” said Ellis. “Together, we will make the value this organization brings to all of southwest Oklahoma a proud subject of discussion in every household. We will celebrate small victories as well as large ones, and great things will happen for all!” Ellis joins the organization on May 12, 2014. She is already set to attend the United Way Worldwide Community Leaders Conference in May – the seminal event for United Way directors to learn new methods for helping their organizations make greater impact in solving critical human needs.

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.

Ellis is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Letters. Her career has been marked with community outreach achievements and “firsts” that will lend great strength to the mission of the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma as it moves toward becoming a Community Impact model organization.

### **About the United Way of Southwest Oklahoma:**

*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.uwswok.org](http://www.uwswok.org).*

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