

## **J. J. Keller Foundation, Inc. Announces Heidi Dusek as Incoming Executive Director**

### ***Dusek will provide strategic leadership and operational responsibility to carry out the foundation's mission in Northeastern Wisconsin***

NEENAH, Wis. — (August 3, 2016) – J. J. Keller Foundation, Inc. announced today that Heidi Dusek has been named new executive director for the foundation starting September 1, 2016. Dusek will join the organization as it embarks on its continued commitment to innovative and meaningful ways to address basic needs, the causes and consequences of poverty, in addition to specialty areas of interest, such as mental health, in Northeastern Wisconsin.

Dusek's selection comes after an extensive search, and as the result of the retirement announcement of the current executive director, Mary Harp-Jirschele, who will be leaving the foundation later this year after nearly a decade of service.

"This is a critical transition for the J. J. Keller Foundation, and we are looking forward to Heidi joining our team," stated Bob Keller, president of the J. J. Keller Foundation. "We are tremendously proud of our accomplishments over the past decade under Mary Harp-Jirschele's leadership, including the establishment of Catalpa Health, partnerships with the Schmidt Family and U.S. Venture, launching the Social Innovation Leadership Experience, and other impactful projects such as the mobile dental bus."

As the foundation's second executive director, Dusek will provide strategic leadership and operational responsibility for the foundation and its assets of over \$70M, including grant making, board relations, communications, public relations, community engagement and governance.

"We are tremendously grateful and amazed by our achievements to date, but we expect our future to dwarf our past," said James Keller, vice president and treasurer of the J. J. Keller Foundation. "As we move forward, we are excited to have Heidi take us to the next chapter of our philanthropic journey."

A Wisconsin native, Dusek spent the early part of her career as a teacher in urban Chicago, followed by work dedicated to youth development. Most recently, she served as the Community Engagement Manager of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, where she managed unrestricted grant making programs for nonprofit effectiveness and capacity building, as well as other grant programs including the Mielke Family Foundation.

"Heidi's experience in family foundation and community grant making, as well as her background in technology position her well to advance the J. J. Keller Foundation into the future," stated Marne Keller-Krikava, secretary of the J. J. Keller Foundation. "Heidi's leadership and experience is closely aligned with our focus on making a difference through the foundation's philanthropic investments. We are excited to partner with Heidi through the next evolution of the foundation under her leadership."

#### **About J. J. Keller Foundation, Inc.**

The J. J. Keller Foundation is a private, independent family foundation focused on providing funding to nonprofit community organizations, projects and programs in the Fox Valley Region of Northeastern Wisconsin. The foundation's mission is to support programs and organizations that address basic needs, the causes and consequences of poverty, in addition to specialty areas of interest, such as mental health. The J. J. Keller Foundation is known for impact giving and partnering with other organizations to move the needle on basic needs and serving as a catalyst for the formation of collaborative programming. The foundation was formed in 1990 by the Keller family, and since that time, nearly \$50 million has been given to numerous community organizations aimed at positively making a difference every day.

[www.jjkellerfoundation.org](http://www.jjkellerfoundation.org)