

## NEWS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Calene LeBeau, Whatcom Community Foundation CEO Resigns, Mauri Ingram to assume CEO Position.**

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Calene LeBeau, Whatcom Community Foundation (Foundation) CEO since June 2006 has resigned effective January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The Foundation board has announced that Mauri Ingram, former board chair, will assume the full responsibilities of President and CEO starting February 1<sup>st</sup>.

“Calene has been on medical leave since September and decided that she needed to devote her full attention to her health”, said Glenn Butler, board chair. “We have valued her leadership, her enthusiasm, and also have deep affection for her personally. We are all in full support of her decision.”

“It is amazing the impact Calene has had on the Foundation and the community in such a short time,” noted Bob Morse, board member and development committee chair. “Her enthusiasm is contagious and she has reached out and successfully engaged so many in the work of the Foundation, including new and existing donors, the non-profit community and the community at large,” he said.

Butler emphasized the Foundation’s success under LeBeau’s leadership. “We just completed our most successful year ever, raising \$2.8 million in new funds and granting over \$360,000 to non-profits in the community,” he said. LeBeau led the effort that resulted in the recent \$1 million Packard Foundation grant. “I can’t imagine a CEO leaving an organization in a stronger position,” Butler concluded.

In January the Foundation started the replacement process for LeBeau. Butler, who served on the search committee for LeBeau noted that the board conducted a very comprehensive assessment and a national search to recruit her in 2006. “During the 2006 search, we established our goals and identified the skill set we were seeking in the Foundation CEO.”

“After thoughtful discussion among the executive committee and the board, the board unanimously selected Mauri Ingram to replace LeBeau as the CEO,” noted Butler. He emphasized that Mauri has served on the board and been board chair for the Foundation and has done an outstanding job. “She has a rich experience in this community as a business owner and civic volunteer and leader. She understands and works well in both the public and private sector which we see as vital for success in this position,” he said

The board was prepared to do a complete search but after evaluating Ingram’s experience and qualifications felt she was a perfect fit for the position, noted Butler. “We couldn’t be more enthused about Mauri’s selection. She is well established in the community and has a real heart for the work of the Foundation. We don’t believe there is a more qualified candidate,” Butler concluded.

Ingram’s resume includes an MBA from the University of Washington and she has served as Executive Director of the Downtown Renaissance Network, as project manager with Trillium

Corporation, and is an owner and principal in thinkwell development. She has also been active in a variety of community boards and causes including Bellingham Rotary, Leadership Whatcom, Bellingham City Club and Sustainable Connections.

Ingram is excited about her new role. “Calene left a solid foundation and I look forward to continuing the work she started. I have a particular interest in expanding the reach of the Foundation throughout the Whatcom County community, building on our tradition of public/private partnerships and growing the assets of the Foundation in order to best serve the community,” she said.

Ingram officially starts her new position the February 4th.