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Tom Baldrige Announces Retirement As Lancaster Chamber President & CEO

LANCASTER, Pa. – Tom Baldrige has announced his upcoming retirement as Lancaster Chamber President & CEO. He will continue the role of President & CEO until June 2022.

“I have enjoyed every minute of my service to the Chamber as I have been overwhelmingly fortunate to have worked with outstanding staff members, amazing Board members, phenomenal volunteers, and the best damned business community in the United States,” says Tom Baldrige. “It has truly been my pleasure to serve and I cannot thank each and every one of you enough for your ongoing support.”

The Lancaster Chamber is committed to intentionally strategizing the next phase of the organization, including the selection process for the next President & CEO. The Search Committee Co-Chairs are Michelle Rondinelli, President of Kitchen Kettle, Inc. and 2020 Lancaster Chamber Board Chair, and J Seroky, President of High Concrete and upcoming 2022 Lancaster Chamber Board Chair. The Committee also includes Scott Fiore, President of TriStarr Staffing and 2021 Lancaster Chamber Board Chair, Jennifer Craighead-Carey, Partner at Barley Snyder, Bob Macina, Executive Vice President - Chief Administrative/Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, Craig Kauffman, President & CEO of Codorus Valley Bancorp, Inc., Mary Kohler, CEO of The H&H Group, and Vanessa Philbert, CEO of the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County. The Chamber has retained Waverly Partners, a national executive search firm, to assist the Search Committee with the CEO search process. The Committee and Waverly Partners will officially launch the search in mid-November.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Tom over the last ten years and there is no doubt we have big shoes to fill,” says Michelle Rondinelli. “He’s made a tremendous impact in this community during his tenure and will continue to do so over the next nine months. While we don’t have an easy task ahead of us, I’m confident the Search Committee is up for the challenge. We look forward to working with Waverly Partners to help guide us through this process.”

Tom Baldrige began his role as CEO of the Lancaster Chamber on January 1, 2000. He has led the Chamber to a variety of successes including winning Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) in 2003 and 2013, and reaching the top three finalists in 2021. In addition, Tom Baldrige was a key leader in the creation of the recent Recovery Lancaster relief program, in collaboration with the Economic Department of Lancaster County and the County of Lancaster, that dispersed \$49 million in funds and provided \$6 million in PPE to Lancaster County during the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I have been honored to serve as a Trustee with Tom’s leadership at the helm,” says J. Seroky. “His influence on Lancaster has been instrumental to the great prosperity our community has experienced over his twenty-one-year tenure. His vision, service, and representation of local businesses will enable our community to thrive for many years to come.”

Baldrige is committed to an effective transition in collaboration with the Search Committee and looks forward to 2022, the Lancaster Chamber’s 150th Anniversary year.

“As I announce my pending exit, I am reminded of the wise words of one of my first bosses/mentors, Governor Dick Thornburgh,” says Baldrige. “As he was nearing the end of his second term, people would often ask him if he was glad to be ‘winding down’ with his service as Governor. Thornburgh, always quick with a comeback and always passionate about the work-at-hand, would answer, ‘I’ll be winding up, as there is much work to be done.’”

For questions or comments, please reach out to Tony Gorick, Creative Services Manager, at agorick@lancasterchamber.com.