

NEWS RELEASE
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Boys & Girls Club of Allentown hires Katarah A. Jordan to become new Chief Executive Officer

Katarah A. Jordan has been named the new Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown effective February 19, 2024. Katarah, a well-known member of the Allentown non-profit community, is a lifelong learner and educator and believes that every child deserves to be successful and thrive cradle to career.

Most recently, Katarah was the Director of the James Lawson Freedom School, a program of Resurrected Community Development Corporation. Her focus was providing their scholars with an enriching learning experience designed to foster mastery and a love of one's community. Prior to that, she was the Director of Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast PA, where she worked to fight food insecurity within our region.

Katarah holds a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from East Stroudsburg University, a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies from Lincoln University, and a Master Gardener Certification from Penn State University. She was recently named a 2024 Take the Lead Honoree by Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, a 40 Under 40 Honoree by Lehigh Valley Business, and a Woman of Influence by Lehigh Valley Style.

"This opportunity is not just about a position; it's a commitment to unleashing the boundless joy in every child's journey of growing up. Together, we will create transformative spaces where the potential of each young person is unlocked, ensuring a brighter tomorrow for Allentown's children and families."

Paul Barbehenn, Chair of the club's Board of Directors and Search Committee tasked with the hiring process, is excited about the future of the organization. "Katarah exudes a dynamic energy that I am confident will energize our staff, members, and key stakeholders as we grow into the future. I expect that her leadership experience and passion for children and their education, in conjunction with her relentless commitment to Allentown youth and the Allentown community will yield tremendous results for our members and the organization overall."

Katarah replaces Deb Fries Jackson, who is retiring after 40 years of service with Girls Club of Allentown and the combined Boys & Girls Club of Allentown. The Club plans to execute a phased transition plan to ensure the transfer of long-held institutional knowledge and continuity among staff and members. Katarah notes that "Deb Fries Jackson's dedication and service to the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown has set an inspiring standard. I look forward to building upon her incredible legacy and, with the support of this community, continuing the mission of empowering and enriching the lives of our children."

Mr. Barbehenn concluded that “The goal of the Board of the Directors was to identify our next generation leader knowing that the job requires a multitude of skills, including the ability to build and manage a team, fundraising and managing a budget, promote the organization within the community, manage our multiple facilities, interface with the Boys & Girls Club of America, among others. We are confident that we found the right person to lead our organization going forward.”