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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Shawn McMahon, 202-464-1596

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

New Leadership Remains Committed to Advancing a Women's Economic Security Agenda

WASHINGTON, DC – Amanda Andere has been named President and CEO of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) by a unanimous vote of the WOW Board of Directors. Andere's appointment follows a national search for a leader who will build upon the DC-based non-profit organization's 50-year legacy of improving economic security for women through non-traditional occupation job training, technical assistance, research, and federal and state policy advocacy. She will start June 30th and lead the organization's efforts around policy, advocacy, fundraising and communications.

Andere has most recently served as the CEO of FACETS, a Fairfax, Virginia-based non-profit, which provides emergency shelter, food and medical assistance, assists clients in obtaining permanent housing, and defeats the cycle of poverty through educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

"For the last 12 years I have dedicated my life and work to social justice and change through advocacy and strategic communications, and as a leader in cross-sector collaboration. I am honored to join Wider Opportunities for Women and look forward to working with the board, staff, supporters, and partners as we celebrate 50 years of WOW leadership in empowerment, equity and economic security," said Andere.

"Women across the lifespan are facing increasing economic security challenges. With so many underpaid women in the workforce, and millions more unemployed, it is critical that we defeat the dated notion that women's incomes are somehow 'supplementary,'" stated Andere. "Breadwinning moms and older workers unable to retire face stagnant wages and rising costs of living, and no policy maker, at any level, should be denying the need for policy responses that support families.

“Domestic violence and sexual assault survivors continue to be misunderstood by our justice and workforce systems, and elders face spending pressures, decreasing services and financial abuses. WOW will continue to work with and challenge individuals, our training systems and our government institutions to solve these problems.”

In addition to serving as FACETS CEO, Andere currently serves on the boards of directors of Nonprofit Northern Virginia, the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, Leadership Fairfax and the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services. She is a member of several advocacy and policy coalitions working on human services and affordable housing, has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors budget committee, and teaches nonprofit management courses at George Mason University.

“Amanda’s dedication to improving the security of women and families is extraordinary,” said Myrna Young, Chair of WOW’s Board of Directors. “She is prepared and eager to build on WOW’s 50 years of training and policy solutions. Awareness of the challenges women and families face across the country has grown—in Washington, DC and across the country. Amanda will add to that momentum and lead efforts to address those challenges.”

WOW’s Acting President & CEO, Shawn McMahon, will become the organization’s Vice President for Policy and Programs. “The Board is grateful for the leadership Shawn has provided WOW,” Ms. Young stated. “He has led WOW through a period of organization and program development, and we are thrilled that he will provide additional continuity during and after Amanda’s transition.”



Wider Opportunities for Women
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 930
Washington, DC 20036
T: 202-464-1596 | F: 202-464-1660
www.wowonline.org