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FOX CITIES CHAMBER ANNOUNCES NEXT CEO

The next president of the Fox Cities Chamber is a Wisconsin native who will return to take the reigns of the state's third largest business organization in January.

Shannon L. Meyer will succeed the retiring Bill Welch, who has lead the Chamber for more than 23 years and is retiring at the end of December.

Meyer, 35, has served as president and CEO of the 1,500-plus member Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in Iowa since 2008, having arrived soon after the devastating June 2008 flood that impacted 1,500 businesses in the area.

"We had an excellent pool of candidates for this position," said Jim Rankin of Air Wisconsin Airlines Corporation, who chairs the Chamber's Board of Directors. The Chamber reports that Meyer's hiring concludes a national search that garnered candidates from around the country, as well as individuals from Northeast Wisconsin.

"We're really excited to have chosen Shannon. She brings a solid understanding of the Chamber as well as economic development, public policy, and membership development. She displayed tremendous enthusiasm and impressed our Board and the many volunteers and community leaders who have had a chance to meet her. She has the skills necessary to lead a business organization like our Chamber."

Meyer currently reports to a 38-member Board of Directors and leads a staff of 11. She supervises a Director-Recovery Team and a nine-person Business Long Term Recovery Team dealing with the after effects of the flood. She also works closely with the staff of Priority One, a Chamber subsidiary responsible for area economic development.

The Cedar Rapids Area Chamber has a \$1.3 million annual budget, and serves a regional market with a population of approximately 200,000.

Prior to her position in Cedar Rapids, Meyer was the president and CEO of the Melbourne-Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce in Melbourne, Florida from 2005 to 2008. The Melbourne Chamber served 1,650 members with a budget of \$1.2 million and a 14-member staff. Although that Chamber historically was events-driven, Meyer worked to foster a government affairs effort and reorganized the organizational structure to include two new departments, seven new committees and four new programs.

Previous to being in Melbourne, Meyer held a similar position with the Twin Cities North Chamber in Mounds View, Minnesota, which served 800 members.

For additional information about the Fox Cities Chamber, please call (920) 734-7101 or check out the Chamber's web site at www.foxcitieschamber.com