



Leadership Oklahoma names Dr. Marion Paden as Chief Executive Officer

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OKLAHOMA CITY- Leadership Oklahoma proudly announces the hire of the next chief executive officer, Dr. Marion Paden.

“As chairman of Leadership Oklahoma, I am pleased and excited that Dr. Marion Paden has agreed to become the next CEO of LOK,” said Bruce Benbrook, president of the Stock Exchange Bank in Woodward. “Dr. Paden has a long, varied, and distinguished record of leadership and service to the state of Oklahoma. With her many years of experience in communication, management, education, public service, and community development, she has all the skills to be a tremendous CEO of Leadership Oklahoma.”

“As Leadership Oklahoma begins its 30th year, I am confident Dr. Paden will be a strong, vibrant, and effective leader for many years to come.”

Dr. Paden currently serves as the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services at Oklahoma City Community College.

Dr. Ann Ackerman, the current CEO of Leadership Oklahoma, first met Dr. Paden when they both worked at OCCC.

“Having worked with Marion in many different capacities, I know the talented, capable hands that will be leading LOK in the future,” said Ackerman. “She has the passion to grow LOK to new heights and I am excited about what will come for this organization under her leadership.”

Paden will start as CEO July 1 and Ackerman’s last day is June 30.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as the next CEO of Leadership Oklahoma,” said Paden. “I know of no other organization that is as committed to Oklahoma’s future. I look forward to serving this organization and the diverse group of Oklahomans working together to

understand the complex issues facing our state and creating solutions that benefit all of our citizens.

Dr. Marion Paden's Biography

Dr. Marion Paden has been Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services at Oklahoma Community College since 1992, where she works as the chief student affairs officer of the college. She also served as dean of students and the director of student relations at OCCC. Previously, she worked in residential life and campus activities at Navarro College in Texas, and at the University of Arts and Sciences in Chickasha.

Dr. Paden grew up in Norman, Oklahoma and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri where she earned a bachelor's in psychology. She received a master's in student personnel and guidance from Oklahoma State University. She was licensed as a professional counselor in 1984 and completed her doctorate in higher education administration in 2000.

Community involvement has been a hallmark of her career, serving on boards of directors for organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Christmas Connection, and the Salvation Army. A graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XXI, Dr. Paden served as president of the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City, the state's oldest and largest civic club. Under her leadership at Rotary, it became the largest chapter in the world.

Recognition of her accomplishments and commitment to the community include induction in to the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City University's Dulaney-Browne Library Society, the Women in Communications By-liner Award for Education, and into the *Journal Record's* Circle of Excellence.

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