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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DON WOOD FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SUSAN MENDENHALL AS DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Experienced Community Advocate Appointed to Lead Grantmaking and Scholarship Initiatives

Fort Wayne, Ind., December 15, 2022 – The [Don Wood Foundation](https://www.donwoodfoundation.org), a private foundation dedicated to the advancement of manufacturing, entrepreneurship, sales, and leadership-related education in the region, today announced the appointment of Susan Mendenhall to Director of Programs. Mendenhall will join the Don Wood Foundation effective January 30, 2023.



Mendenhall is a respected non-profit leader in Northeast Indiana. Serving on the staff of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne for nearly 13 years, with the most recent nine years as President and CEO, she has advocated for the arts as a critical component of community, and key driver of talent attraction and retention. During her tenure with Arts United, Mendenhall led significant transformation in the community through the reemergence of Arts Campus Fort Wayne, a connected arts community and welcoming destination for all. She also led capital campaign efforts to revitalize the iconic Arts United Center, designed by the renowned architect Louis Khan.

“Susan is such an asset to our community. Her knowledge as a non-profit leader, her grantmaking experience, and her drive to create connection and opportunity align with the goals and core values of the Foundation,” said Laura Macknick, President and CEO, Don Wood Foundation. “Susan’s unique perspective and skillset to challenge problems and develop creative solutions will help us best serve the region and prepare our diverse workforce to take advantage of the immense opportunities that exist today and in the future.”

As the Director of Programs, Mendenhall will lead efforts to identify and partner with non-profits and educational institutions that support the advancement of manufacturing, entrepreneurship, sales, and leadership. She will engage with organizations, companies, and individuals to understand needs, potential impact, and the support necessary to strengthen our region through workforce development and training.

Mendenhall holds an M.A. in Philanthropic Studies from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and a B.S. in Public and Nonprofit Management from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Prior to joining Arts United in 2010, she served as the Campaign and Donor Services Manager at the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. She will join the Don Wood Foundation following the conclusion of her role with Arts United in January.

About the Don Wood Foundation

The Don Wood Foundation is a private foundation, established in 2018 by Don Wood, founder of 80/20, Inc., that serves and supports innovators, leaders, collaborators, and skilled workers with the potential to create and sustain opportunities in manufacturing. The Foundation partners with non-profits and educational institutions to provide sustained investment that supports the development of a diverse workforce through exposure, education, and training to create strong communities rooted in the advancement of manufacturing.

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