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IslandWood Selects Megan Karch as its New Chief Executive Officer

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA (January 22, 2018) – IslandWood, a nationally-recognized environmental education organization, announced today that its Board has unanimously chosen Megan Karch as its new Chief Executive Officer. Karch, who has served as CEO of the Seattle nonprofit FareStart for 17 years, will begin her new role on March 12, 2018.

"After an extensive national search, we couldn't be more pleased to have found such a nationally-respected, seasoned leader to guide IslandWood's next chapter," said Marguerite Kondracke, chair of IslandWood's Board. "Megan has an outstanding record of leadership, innovation, strategic vision, fundraising, and staff development. Her proven capacity to grow nonprofit reach and impact, as well as her passion for IslandWood's environmental education mission make her the perfect fit for our organization."

"I am honored to have been selected as the new CEO of IslandWood as we advance educational approaches that build understanding of our environment and empower all students to engage in building healthy, sustainable communities," added Karch. "It is thrilling to be a part of an organization that thinks creatively and passionately about how our work can not only support children, educators, and communities in our region, but also serve as a model throughout the country."

Karch comes to IslandWood with a deep commitment to building healthy communities through education and training. As CEO at FareStart since 2000, Karch has been an instrumental part of that organization's significant regional and national expansion, paving the way for a broader impact on homelessness in King County and beyond. Her extraordinary leadership has been recognized by the Puget Sound Business Journal, Senator Maria Cantwell, Seattle Business Magazine, Seattle Met, and the Women's University Club Foundation. Prior to joining FareStart, Karch was Vice President of Vocational Education for Humanism, a statewide nonprofit human services agency in Maryland. She lives on Bainbridge Island with her partner and their four children and is deeply rooted in the business and philanthropic communities of Seattle.

Karch succeeds Ben Klasky, who announced his plans to step down from the organization last Fall after serving as CEO for 12 years.

About IslandWood

Since its founding in 2000, IslandWood has been advancing innovative and inclusive education that inspires understanding and stewardship of our planet. Its place-based, experiential learning programs offered for Puget Sound area schools serve more than 10,000 students every year on its Bainbridge Island campus, at the Brightwater wastewater treatment plant in Woodinville, and in Seattle schools and communities. IslandWood also offers two Master's level graduate programs in education, has developed community-connected science curriculum in partnership with Seattle Public Schools, provides teacher training, and leads statewide and national advocacy initiatives. Learn more: islandwood.org.