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WOODS CHARITABLE FUND ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBER, OFFICERS

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., a private grant-making foundation, announces the election of officers and a new member to its Board of Directors. **Candice Howell** was elected to the Board during the Fund's November Board meeting.

Howell is the Director of Student Success and Retention at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she provides academic success services and help to students whose progress to graduation is at risk. She works with the administration to set goals and objectives for improving student retention and to develop programs supporting retention. Before 2014, Howell served as the Assistant to the Provost for Student Success and Diversity at NWU. During her tenure at this position, which began in February 2009, Wesleyan's enrollment of undergraduate students of color increased nearly 41% from 2008 to 2013. Howell is a mentor at Dawes Middle School, an agency advocate for University of Nebraska-Lincoln Upward Bound, and is active with youth and sports groups at Lincoln City Church. She received a master's of sports science degree in sport management from the United States Sports Academy of Daphne, Alabama, in 2010, and a bachelor's of science degree in exercise science from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, in 2005.

"Candice's experience and perspective will be valuable to Woods as it strives to make the best grant-making decisions," said Tom Woods, president of Woods Charitable Fund. Howell fills the vacated seat of Kathleen Rutledge, who served on the Woods board from 2009-2014 and was board vice chairwoman from 2012-14.

Woods Charitable Fund also elected officers at its November meeting. Those elected were **Donna W. Woods**, chairwoman; **Orville Jones III**, vice chairman; **Hank Woods**, treasurer; **Michael J. Tavlin**, assistant treasurer; and **Tom Woods**, president and board secretary. **Nelle Woods Jamison**, **Ernie Castillo** and **Carl Eskridge** are continuing members of the Board.

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants three times a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education, and Arts & Culture.