

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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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. **Michelle Suarez** was elected to the Board during the Fund's November Board meeting.

Suarez is the Early Childhood Developer for the Prosper Lincoln initiative at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Its goal is to increase cross-sector initiatives and resources to advocate for and improve early-childhood development in Lincoln. Before joining Prosper Lincoln, she was Principal at Lincoln's Everett Elementary School for six years and Principal at Calvert Elementary School for 13 years. Suarez was a principal, administrator and teacher in Lincoln Public Schools for more than 30 years. She is a board member of the Food Bank of Lincoln, Men With Dreams, Nebraska Appleseed and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State College System, for which she served as chair from 2013-16. She received a master of educational administration degree and a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Michelle's experience as a lifelong educator and perspective as the Early Childhood Developer for Prosper Lincoln will be valuable to Woods as it strives to make the best grant-making decisions," said Tom Woods, President of Woods Charitable Fund. Suarez fills the vacated seat of Ernie Castillo Jr., who served on the Woods board from 2012-2017.

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

Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. makes grants twice a year to tax-exempt organizations seeking funding for programs in the areas of Human Services, Civic & Community, Education, and Arts & Culture and through its Breakthrough Initiative Grant program.