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Literacy Council of Northern Virginia Names New Executive Director

Falls Church, VA - The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's (LCNV) Board of Directors has named Roopal Mehta Saran as the organization's new Executive Director.

Saran, who most recently served as the Director of Account Management at KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play to the daily lives of all kids, will replace LCNV's current Executive Director, Patricia Donnelly, who is retiring after 15 years of leadership.

At KaBOOM!, Saran managed public-private partnerships that resulted in thousands of corporate and community volunteers building hundreds of playgrounds for thousands of children across the US, Mexico, and Canada. Prior to KaBOOM!, she worked as Senior Director of Community Development at First Book, a national non-profit literacy organization.

Before her move to the non-profit sector, Saran practiced law as an attorney representing school districts and state Departments of Education. She received her BA in English and MA in Education from Stanford University, and her JD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Saran serves on the National Advisory Board of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University.

Board President Anne Spear states, "We are so grateful for Patti Donnelly's extraordinary leadership of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. Her spirit and determination have made the organization a nationally recognized example of successful adult education. We could not imagine a more fitting successor than Roopal Mehta Saran. She has the intellect, creativity, and understanding of the mission of the Council that will take the organization to the next level. We are so fortunate to have her leading the LCNV team!"

"I am excited to work with such a talented team to touch the lives of so many people. Increasing adult literacy is crucial to enhancing productivity and engagement and provides additional windows of opportunity for those who want to learn," said Saran.

Donnelly leaves after successfully leading the creation and implementation of LCNV's revolutionary new program model that best meets the needs of beginning-level English language learners. In response to market needs, research in best-practices for our service population, and a need for adults to move through an educational continuum at a faster pace, today's LCNV programs focus on targeted skill development in a small group classroom environment. The programs also emphasize intensity of instruction and guidance to pathway programs for higher education or job training.

The Board wishes Patricia Donnelly a rewarding retirement and thanks her for her dedicated leadership. Saran will begin her new duties on August 28.

About the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is Virginia's largest and oldest nonprofit literacy organization. It serves 1,500 learners annually with its mission to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities. LCNV is one of only a few non-profit organizations in all of Northern Virginia that complies with Federal Education standards as it serves the most beginning level adult learner, those that understand English at a 6th grade level or lower.

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