



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Leadership Transition at Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology

Buffalo, NY – The Board of Directors of the Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) announces that its Chief Executive Officer, Amber M. Dixon, has indicated her intention to step down from her leadership role later this year to pursue other personal and professional opportunities. After four years of successful, transformational leadership, Dixon, a well-respected educational administrator, is expected to depart from the organization by mid-2017.

"Over the past four years, with the help of a talented and dedicated staff, I am confident we have laid a solid foundation for BCAT's future. Buffalo needs the programs, the partnerships, the people and the mission of the Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology," stated Dixon. "My decision to move on from BCAT represents a personal desire to contribute to this community in a different and broader capacity. I am grateful for the privilege of working with the amazing students who have changed their lives through BCAT programming. They are an inspiration."

Beginning in 2012, Dixon spearheaded the construction, opening, and program development for the Center. BCAT's objective is two-fold: to encourage students to stay in school through high school graduation by offering after-school arts programming and to train unemployed and under-employed adults for careers in the medical field that will pay family sustaining wages. To date, high school seniors who attended **BCAT had a 96% graduation rate**. The job placement rate for adults attending BCAT's rigorous training is **83%, with an average starting salary of nearly \$35,000/year**.

"This is an exciting time in Buffalo and for this amazing organization. Amber and her team built a special place of hope and opportunity that will change even more lives well into the future," said BCAT Board Chairman, John R. Koelmel. "Amber did a terrific job of getting us up and running and making a difference for every client we serve. We thank her for her unfaltering service and commitment and wish her the very best with her next endeavor."

The BCAT Board has formed a search committee that will establish a process for identifying Amber's successor.

"We look at this as an opportunity to build on BCAT's success" said Robert D. Gioia, BCAT Vice Chairman and President of The John R. Oishei Foundation, one of BCAT's founding supporters. "Amber poured her heart into the Center and it shows. She laid a lot of groundwork to bring BCAT to a solid position where it can continue to grow and prosper."

About BCAT

BCAT's mission is to inspire, motivate and prepare youth and adults for educational and career advancement through year-round arts and job training programming to create new futures.