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Experienced Leader and Educator Takes the Helm of Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology

Buffalo, NY, October 2, 2017 – The Board of Directors of the Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology (BCAT) today announced the appointment of Gina E. Burkhardt as the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective October 31, 2017.

Recognized nationally for her forward-thinking, research-based leadership in education and workforce development, Burkhardt brings more than 25 years of success and experience to lead BCAT to its next level of significant growth and opportunity.

"Recruiting a proven leader like Gina reflects the Board's strong commitment to the important mission and work of BCAT," stated John Koelmel, Chairman of the Board.

"After four years of solid foundational growth, BCAT is now ready to elevate its impact on our community and we're confident Gina will be the leader to do just that."

Burkhardt recently served as vice president for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in Washington D.C., and previously held positions as CEO for Jobs for the Future and Executive Vice President for the American Institute for Research with an annual operating budget of more than \$100 million.

"I wanted to take my diverse experiences to an organization with a contemporary and

important mission that can make real differences in the lives of others," commented Burkhardt. "The BCAT story and its founding roots in Bill Strickland's Manchester Bidwell Corporation is exactly what I have been passionately seeking, and I cannot be more excited for this opportunity."

As CEO, Burkhardt will have executive and strategic oversight of programming, fundraising, talent recruitment, and community partnerships. Her extensive network and relationships with national funders, including the U.S. Department of Education, major foundations, businesses and organizations, will help strengthen BCAT's role in assisting youth and adults in the City of Buffalo realize their full potential.

Burkhardt has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and holds both a Master's in Education and an ABD (All but Dissertation) from the University of North Carolina in Educational Psychology. She participated in the Executive Education Program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Burkhardt was chosen after an extensive local and national search conducted by Koya Leadership Partners, a national executive search firm that works exclusively with nonprofits. Having grown up in Auburn, New York, Gina has shared her excitement about coming home to Upstate New York and will permanently make Buffalo her home this fall.

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About BCAT

The Buffalo Center for Arts and Technology is based on Pittsburgh's Manchester Bidwell Corporation, a nationally recognized arts and training center founded in 1969 by Bill Strickland. BCAT's mission is to inspire youth to complete high school and pursue secondary education through exposure to the creative arts, and assist unemployed and underemployed adults with job training that awards them with family sustainable wages.