

LPS foundation hires new president

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The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools board has hired Wendy Van as its new president, succeeding Sharon Wherry who retired at the beginning of the month.

Van, who has spent much of her career in nonprofit fundraising and leadership, comes to the LPS foundation from the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, where she was vice president of development.

She also has worked for Friendship Home, St. Monica's and NET Television and Radio and is active in community and civic groups including TEDxLincoln and Rotary 14.

Van, whose four children attend LPS, said she is thrilled to join the foundation to help support the district.



“I've seen firsthand how important it is to have support for education coming from all sectors of our community,” she said in a prepared statement. “Collaboration, pooled strengths and shared vision make the educational experience so much richer and deeper, and prepares children for a dynamic and successful future.”

As the foundation's fourth president, Van said she wants to continue its work of connecting opportunities to the school system.

The foundation, now in its 25th year, raises and manages private donations to invest in programs that help students get ready for college or careers. It has financed almost 2,000 college scholarships, 942 Fund-a-Need classroom grants and 1,600 student emergency needs, with more than \$26 million raised for Lincoln Public Schools programs, awards and scholarships.