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## **NEWS! LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CENTER ANNOUNCED**

### **Nikki Hahn to Become the Organization's New CEO, Effective January 1, 2022**

(White Plains, New York.....November 9, 2021) Nikki A. Hahn, MPA, a resident of Scarsdale, NY, has been named as the next CEO of the **Women's Enterprise Development Center (WEDC)**, an award-winning organization serving Westchester and the Hudson Valley, helping women achieve economic self-sufficiency and financial stability through business ownership and entrepreneurship. For the past three years, Ms. Hahn has served as WEDC's Director of Development and Strategic Initiatives. She will take the reins as CEO on January 1, 2022, replacing Anne M. Janiak, who will continue on with WEDC as a special advisor on an as-needed basis, and remain as executive director of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association.

"We are extremely fortunate to be working with Nikki," commented Barbara H. Van Bergen, president of WEDC's Board of Directors. "Her extraordinary intelligence, collaborative nature, and thirst for innovation and knowledge, combined with an amazing can-do attitude, will serve our organization and community well. We were especially impressed with her ability to pivot during the past year, during extremely challenging times, enabling us to continue to offer our clients all the services they needed."

Asked what her goals for WEDC were, Ms. Hahn said she wants to increase WEDC's presence in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities in the region, expand services, and continue to build the organization's partnerships.

"BIPOC entrepreneurs face greater challenges accessing the resources they need to build successful businesses," she points out. "We need to dismantle barriers and pave the way for racial equality in the small business space. To that end, the training opportunities we offer rival those found at many leading educational institutions. But we also provide high-touch business training, networking, and access to capital. All of this is critically important to low- to moderate-income women and minority small business owners as they move forward. In short, we help make their dreams come true."

Before joining WEDC, Ms. Hahn served as corporate relations and service events manager for Volunteer New York!, was chair of the Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee, and served as Client and Partner Development Director for The Acceleration Project. She also was active with the Junior League of Central Westchester. In addition to her work at WEDC, Ms. Hahn is chair of the Cure JM Foundation's Board of Directors. She earned both a Masters of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree from New York University.

Ms. Hahn said she is indebted to Ms. Janiak, who has been involved with WEDC since its formation in 1997. "Anne has been instrumental in its growth and development, including its designation as a Women's Business Center by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 2003." Ms. Janiak built an organization that began with a \$10,000 legislative grant to one with an annual expense budget of \$2 million, and with her team, created a strong foundation through various advocacy efforts on the federal, state, and local levels. "Most important, her unstinting efforts on behalf of WEDC changed the lives of the thousands of the women and men we've served," Ms. Hahn said. "She has been an inspiration to us all."

### **About WEDC**

The Women's Enterprise Development Center (WEDC) is a 501(c)(3) corporation, that empowers women entrepreneurs in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley so they can build successful small businesses through access to traditional business and financial resources. WEDC provides comprehensive, high quality business training programs, one-on-one business and loan counseling, networking opportunities, assistance with loan applications for microloans and crowd funding through Kiva Zip, and MWBE certification assistance in English and Spanish. WEDC's overarching goal is to build a vibrant community of women business owners, comprised of start-up and established companies. WEDC serves both women and men.