

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAVREF Changes Leadership

Names New Board of Directors Chairperson

Washington, DC - The National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations announced today that Ms. Robin Rusconi has been selected to serve as the Chairperson of the NAVREF Board of Directors effective September 10, 2017. Ms. Rusconi replaces Priscilla West who is rotating out of the position at the conclusion of her two-year tenure. Ms. Rusconi is the executive director of the Midwest Biomedical Research Foundation in Kansas City, MO.

"I am honored to assume this responsibility and believe passionately in NAVREF's mission to advance the success of the VA-affiliated research and education corporations," stated Ms. Rusconi. "Priscilla did a superb job as the Chair and I hope to bring the same dedication and spirit of collaboration to the role. I look forward to working closely with the membership to deliver highly valued services that benefit veterans."

Before leading MBRF, Ms. Rusconi served in various roles at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, culminating as the Director of Research Administration and Project Management. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Kansas.

Under Ms. West's leadership, NAVREF conducted a national search to select a new Chief Executive Officer and forged strategic relationships across the biomedical research industry. Ms. West will continue to serve on the NAVREF Board and remains the executive director of the Veterans Education and Research Association of Northern New England based in White River Junction, VT.

About NAVREF

Formed in 1992, NAVREF is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization of research and education foundations affiliated with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers. These nonprofits, also known as the VA-affiliated nonprofit research and education corporations (NPCs), are authorized by Congress under 38 USC §§7361-7366 to provide flexible mechanisms for the conduct of research and education at VA facilities nationwide. Currently, NAVREF has 78 members. www.navref.org

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