



Special Olympics Washington Names David Wu New President and CEO

Organization Also Announces Promotion of Mary K. Do to Chief Operating Officer

November 17, 2020 – SEATTLE – Special Olympics Washington (SpecialOlympicsWashington.org) announced today the appointment of **David Wu** as the organization's new president and chief executive officer. The appointment follows the retirement of current president and CEO, Dave Lenox.

Wu comes to Special Olympics Washington with more than 30 years of executive-level experience in development and fundraising, marketing, government affairs, and public and private partnerships. Prior to joining Special Olympics Washington, Wu held senior-level leadership positions with non-profit organizations including Woodland Park Zoo, PATH and University of Washington. Most recently, he served as the chief development and membership officer for San Diego Zoo Global, and president of the SDZG Foundation. During his tenure, Wu led a team of more than 70 individuals in raising philanthropic and membership support, averaging more than \$100 million annually.

Wu is a native of Hong Kong and a graduate of Virginia Tech and Bowling Green State University. He served on the boards of the Seattle Chamber, Global Washington, Global Impact, and Friends of the Waterfront, among other boards. He lives in the Seattle area with his husband.

Special Olympics Washington also announced the promotion of **Mary K. Do** from senior vice president of development and communications, to chief operating officer.

Do joined the Special Olympics movement more than 20 years ago as development manager for Special Olympics Northern California and began working with Special Olympics Washington in 2004, rising steadily through the ranks. As senior vice president of development and communications, she oversaw Special Olympics Washington's philanthropic giving and marketing strategies, leading a team that raises more than \$8 million annually through individual and major gifts, corporate sponsorships, grants and events.

A Seattle native, Do is a commissioner with the Seattle Sports Commission and is involved with a number of local and national fundraising professionals organizations. She resides in the Seattle area with her husband and children.

"On behalf of the Special Olympics Washington board of directors, we are thrilled to have David join us, and for Mary to step into her new leadership role," said Chris Morgan, Special Olympics Washington board chair and partner with Grant Thornton LLP. "We are confident that David's successful track record and passion for a more equitable future for all will lead Special Olympics Washington into a new era of growth and innovation."

Morgan added, "After more than 40 years in the Special Olympics movement, Dave Lenox leaves an incredible legacy that has impacted the lives of countless athletes in Washington and across the globe. We will miss him but find comfort in knowing that he will continue to be a voice for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We thank Dave for his service to Special Olympics and wish him all the best on his retirement."

About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 19,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Learn more at SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

###

Media Contact

Jaymelina Esmele, Special Olympics Washington | (206) 578-3339 | jesmele@sowa.org

Photos of Mr. Wu and Ms. Do are available by request.