



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION PROMOTES PAUL T. HOGAN AND
BLYTHE T. MERRILL**

Buffalo, N.Y. (January 22, 2014) -- The John R. Oishei Foundation is pleased to announce the promotion of Paul T. Hogan to Executive Vice President and Blythe T. Merrill to Senior Vice President of Programs.

As Executive Vice President of the Foundation, Mr. Hogan will be responsible for the oversight of daily operations of the Foundation; professional development of staff; external evaluation of the Foundation's performance; supervision of the knowledge management and communications functions; and management of the Foundation's digital infrastructure. Hogan will also identify, develop and maintain projects and funding partnerships at the regional and national levels that advance the Foundation's priorities and continue to support a regular roster of proposals, grant requests and projects.

Mr. Hogan co-chaired the New York State CDP Task Force for the last four years with Kate Levin, Commissioner of the NYC Division of Cultural Affairs and was recently selected to serve on the Strategic Advisory Panel for the Cultural Data Project (CDP), an organization which offers an online information management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations. He has Bachelor and Master of Arts Degrees in English and Creative Writing from the State University at Buffalo, where he held the David Gray Fellowship in Poetry and Letters under the internationally acclaimed late poet Robert Creeley. Paul has two adult children and lives in Kenmore with his wife, Barbara.

As Senior Vice President of Programs, Ms. Merrill will serve as the Foundation's senior programmatic leader and will oversee the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of key Foundation initiatives. She will collaborate with local and national leaders to identify, cultivate and drive the introduction of proven models to the WNY area. She will also continue to manage a portfolio of grants and present sound project and funding recommendations to the Board.

Ms. Merrill has a diverse background that includes experience as a community planner, development specialist, strategic program officer and grant writer. She is a graduate of Skidmore College and was a Loeb Fellow through the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Environmental Studies. She has two sons and resides in Buffalo with her husband Jeffrey Lebsack.

The John R. Oishei Foundation strives to be a catalyst for change to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region through grantmaking, leadership and network building. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.

For additional information, contact Robert D. Gioia (856-9490), President of The John R. Oishei Foundation.