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Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Announces Hiring of New Senior Vice President

HERMITAGE, Tenn. (August X, 2015) – Veteran fundraising executive Susan D. Williams, CFRE, is joining the staff at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage as its first senior vice president for institutional advancement. In this role, Williams will plan and direct the institution's development programs, strengthening existing efforts and launching new fundraising initiatives to keep Jackson's home in the forefront of presidential sites.

This position was created by the Andrew Jackson Foundation as the first step of an extensive reorganization to implement a bold multiyear plan intended to secure the future of the National Historic Landmark. The strategic plan is intended to keep The Hermitage state-of-the-art in terms of how history and historic figures are presented, and to keep our seventh president relevant to contemporary audiences.

“Ms. Williams, in this new position, will be a key part in our work to increase awareness and education about The Hermitage and the man that Jackson was,” said foundation President and CEO Howard J. Kittell. “Susan will be a tremendous asset to our team as we develop new initiatives and programs to enhance The Hermitage experience. She brings significant fundraising experience to our team, a keen professionalism, and great warmth. That she is from Nashville is a significant bonus. ”

Williams’ 16-year career demonstrates an outstanding record of success in all aspects of ethical fundraising and nonprofit leadership. She joins The Hermitage after a three-year stint as director of corporate and foundation relations at Belmont University. Prior to her tenure at the university, she was the senior director of development and of endowment giving for the Nashville Symphony. Williams also served as the executive director of the Madison Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce. She has been honored as the Association Fundraising Professionals Fundraising Executive of the Year for the Nashville area, and has served as its president. She currently serves as president of the Planned Giving Council of Middle Tennessee.

Williams’ hiring comes on the heels of efforts taken late last year by the organization to implement strategic changes featuring a new logo, tagline and a national board of trustees. The board is a unique collection of journalists, historians and CEOs, including National Public Radio journalist Mara Liasson and two Pulitzer Prize winners, historian Jon Meacham and Charles Overby, former CEO of the Freedom Forum and the Newseum, and CedarStone Bank President Bob McDonald. The changes to its name and board composition are all part of the efforts to place a renewed focus on Jackson the man and on the historic site he called home, The Hermitage.

Concluded Kittell, “Presidential homes and libraries are the jewels in the crown of our nation’s historic sites. They tell vitally important stories of our nation’s founding and its complicated evolution as a self-governing people. They deserve our best efforts and talent.”

About Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened as a museum in 1889, it is one of the nation's oldest presidential sites, drawing more than 192,000 visitors each year. Located 12 miles northeast of downtown Nashville, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with 27 restored buildings, 12 dating to Jackson's ownership, including his 1836 mansion and tomb, slave cabins, garden, and the church he had constructed for his beloved wife, Rachel. In the Andrew Jackson Visitor Center, guests can experience *Andrew Jackson: Born for a Storm*, a new interactive exhibit about the life and profound impact of our seventh president on the history of the United States. Admission is free for active duty military and all veterans. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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