



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 25, 2019
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Santa Barbara Foundation Announces Leadership Transition

SANTA BARBARA, CA - After eleven years as President and CEO, Ronald V. Gallo, Ed.D. will assume the position of CEO Emeritus at the Foundation effective January 1, 2020, announced Board Chair Diane Adam. “Ron’s style of leading with compassion has served the Santa Barbara Foundation well. His accomplishments over the last decade will be remembered by our iconic community institution for years into the future,” she continued.

Dr. Gallo will cede his day-to-day responsibilities at the Foundation and is looking forward to his new position that will continue to provide him an opportunity to represent the Foundation and those that it serves throughout the county. “I am excited about this transition that will cap my 30-year career of leading philanthropic institutions,” said Dr. Gallo. “My passion for community foundations and what they can accomplish has never been higher, but it feels like the right time for the Santa Barbara Foundation to have new leadership with fresh ideas, perspectives, and skills. I am enormously proud of what the Foundation accomplished during my tenure, but I have always been of the opinion that good leadership includes knowing when to pass the baton. This is that time.”

Dr. Gallo came to Santa Barbara after serving a 15-year tenure as CEO at the Rhode Island Foundation, where like here, he presided over a significant growth in assets and helped evolve the organization from an astute grant maker to a proactive institution that – along with its many collaborators – now seeks to solve what had often been seen as intractable community problems. During his tenure here, the Santa Barbara Foundation has become a nearly \$500 million community foundation, has broadened its approach to the use of philanthropic capital, has



focused on building an inclusive board and staff, has deepened its commitment to serve all parts of the county, and has leaned into innovation and partnerships with an ever-expanding group of people and organizations. A newly-launched strategic plan puts special emphasis on Santa Barbara County’s most vulnerable populations and the challenges of working families.

The Board has named Jackie Carrera, currently the Foundation’s Chief Revenue and Business Development Officer, as Interim CEO. Santa Barbara Foundation’s Board Chair-Elect Pamela Gann said that “this transition in leadership is made easier because of the Board’s high confidence in Jackie Carrera’s knowledge of the Foundation and the community and her excellent nonprofit leadership skills.”

A national search for a permanent replacement will commence soon after the New Year.

Dr. Gallo is grateful for all the support he has received along the way. “I could not have done this job without the support and encouragement of the Foundation’s trustees past and present, an amazing team of dedicated professionals who are as passionate about building resilient communities as I am, the generosity of our donors, the imagination and raw courage of our nonprofit sector and, most of all, the many extraordinary people whom I have met in every community of this beautiful county. It has been, quite simply, one of the best and most fulfilling chapters of my life.”

About Santa Barbara Foundation

The Santa Barbara Foundation, the largest community foundation in the region and the county’s go-to resource for investment and capacity-building, strives to mobilize and elevate all residents to thrive. Nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has been supported by the Foundation during its 91-year history.



The Foundation is working to improve areas that affect quality of life in Santa Barbara County including childcare, workforce development, and workforce housing. The Foundation connects those who give with those in need - and all who dream of stronger communities. To learn more, please visit SBFoundation.org.

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