

## The Ayers Foundation Announces New Chief Executive Officer Dr. Burton Williams Joins Janet Ayers in Leading the Foundation

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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**PARSONS, Tenn.** – Jim Ayers, Founder, and Janet Ayers, President, of The Ayers Foundation announced today that Dr. Burton Williams has joined the foundation as its new chief executive officer working closely with Janet Ayers in leading the foundation and managing the rapid expansion of the foundation's work in several key areas.

The Ayers Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people of Tennessee by positively affecting the fields of education, conservation, and social welfare. Created in 1999, the foundation provides college access and success counseling and scholarships to rural students, and it supports medical services for children, research into pre-cancer detection and diagnosis, continuing professional education and development for teachers, and other charitable donations and grants.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Williams will be joining our team," said Janet Ayers. "We wanted someone who values our student-centered culture and our focus on helping rural communities, with the proven business and management experience to work with our standing team to rapidly scale our efforts and help move us forward.

"Having known Dr. Williams for several years, we believe our search led us to the best candidate reflecting these values and skills."

Dr. Williams is a veteran leader in business, development, and education. He has nearly 25 years of experience in administration, community engagement, academics, and research. Most recently, Dr. Williams was the Lead Financial Planner and Director of Trustcore Institutional at TrustCore, located in Brentwood, TN. He previously served as Associate Vice President for Advancement, as well as Assistant Dean of the College of Education and Associate Dean of the College of Business at Lipscomb University in Nashville. He earlier held similar roles at Freed-Hardeman University in West Tennessee.

Williams has a Doctor of Education from Lipscomb University, a Master of Science in financial planning, and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Freed-Hardeman University.

"In partnership with Susan Rhodes, Senior Advisor to the President and the former Executive Director of our Ayers Scholars program, who is now focused on the strategies, policies, and projects that are going to be key to the Foundation's future work, the Foundation has an outstanding senior leadership team in place to support our rapidly expanding work in support of the students, schools, and communities we serve," said Janet Ayers.

For more information about The Ayers Foundation and its many programs, please visit <u>TheAyersFoundation.org.</u>

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