
L C A Press Release

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RE: LCA Chief Executive Announces Retirement; Board Appoints Successor

For the past ten months, Lehigh County Authority's Board of Directors has been planning for the future of LCA's leadership team. In June, LCA's long-term chief executive, Aurel Arndt, announced to all employees that he plans to retire at the end of this year.

Arndt joined the Authority in 1974 and has held several positions during his tenure, including Business Manager, Assistant General Manager, General Manager and Chief Financial Officer. He was appointed as LCA's first CEO in 2013 following completion of the landmark water and sewer system lease agreement with the City of Allentown.

"Over the course of his career, Aurel has provided the consistent and innovative leadership required to ensure LCA is prepared to meet the growing needs for water and sewer services in our region," said LCA Board Chairman Brian Nagle. "As our region has undergone tremendous growth and transformation over the past 40 years, LCA has been required to respond and plan for the services that would be needed by our community. Aurel's leadership has been crucial in ensuring that existing and future customers receive the affordable, high-quality, reliable services they expect from a professionally run utility."

On Monday, LCA's Board voted unanimously to appoint Liesel Adam to succeed Arndt effective January 1, 2016. During her tenure, since joining LCA in 1998, she has held positions of Public relations Coordinator, Customer Care and Communications

Manager, and Chief Administrative Officer. In her current position, she oversees several critical functions including human resources, customer service, communications and information technology.

Prior to appointing Adam, LCA's Board evaluated both internal and external candidates recruited through an executive search process that began in January.

"Since beginning her work for this organization 17 years ago, Liesel has consistently focused her efforts on driving LCA to higher levels of performance and service to the community," Arndt said. "Her collaborative style and strong leadership skills will provide for a smooth transition into LCA's future."

Over the next five months leading to Arndt's retirement, several key transitions will be initiated. To start, LCA is seeking to fill the roles of Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, which are currently vacant. Other key transition activities will include outreach to community leaders to introduce Adam to key service relationships, and extensive employee outreach that is already under way.

"As we move forward into the future," Adam said, "LCA will remain focused on our mission of providing exceptional value to our customer through our high-quality, affordable and reliable water and wastewater services. Our employees are LCA's foundation in achieving this mission, and I am looking forward to continuing the great work we are doing together. As the future unfolds, we will work together to find new and better ways to serve our community's needs."

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