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**Contact Information:**

Bill Valdez  
[bill.valdez@seniorexecs.org](mailto:bill.valdez@seniorexecs.org)  
202-971-3300

### **SEA Statement on Margaret Weichert's Return to the Private Sector**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Today, Bill Valdez, President of the Senior Executives Association (SEA) – the professional association responsible for representing, convening, and cultivating members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and senior career leaders across the federal government – released the following statement in response to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Deputy Director for Management (DDM) Margaret Weichert's announcement that she is leaving government.

**"As the OMB's DDM, Weichert placed significant focus on modernizing government and addressing institutional inefficiencies which inhibited delivering on the values of mission, vision, and stewardship. Weichert placed substantial focus on addressing the skills and capability gaps within government, this forward outlook has assisted the federal workforce in preparing for the future of work and should continue. SEA has deeply appreciated her ability to start necessary conversations with stakeholders on issues often ignored in mainstream political debates,"** Valdez explained.

**"The President's Management Agenda, which Weichert spearheaded, will be a lasting legacy to her tenure. It is a forward thinking Agenda that captures many of the essential elements required to modernize the federal government,"** Valdez said.

Valdez furthers, **"Weichert served concurrently for nearly a year as the acting director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)- a hard task to juggle while serving as DDM. Nonetheless, Weichert led initiatives to reform the agency and address its dwindling capacity to manage the federal workforce. Once again, Weichert helped facilitate necessary conversations on how OPM could be ushered into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is undeniable that without her office's work to deconstruct OPM, the National Academy of Public Administration would not be working with stakeholders, by Congressional mandate, to review options for improving the functioning of OPM."**

**"As Weichert returns to the private sector, individuals across government would be wise to continue these essential conversations which are critical to ensuring the effective deliverance of services to the American public,"** Valdez notes. **"Improving the functioning of government cannot be done by one person, one Department, or one Congressional Committee. Congress and the Executive Branch must dedicate significant time, resources and attention to reviewing government operations and advancing the capacity of the federal workforce. With over 2 million civil servants working for the American people around the world, we need a strong, concerted across government effort to manage the federal workforce and plan for its future success."**

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*The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career Federal leaders. Founded in 1980, SEA's goals are to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of the Federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career Federal executives; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions. For more information, visit [www.seniorexecs.org](http://www.seniorexecs.org).*