

Chicago United President and CEO Announces Planned Retirement from the Organization

Board praises Gloria Castillo, prepares for national CEO search



Gloria Castillo, the President and CEO of Chicago United since 2003, has informed the Chicago United Board of Directors of her intent to retire from the post in the coming months. She will continue to lead the organization and execute its strategies to increase diversity in Chicago's business leadership until the board concludes a national search for her replacement.

"It has been my deep honor to serve this one-of-a kind organization for nearly 16 years, and I am so proud of what we've accomplished in advocating for a more diverse and inclusive business culture in Chicago," Castillo said. "I've always believed in proactive succession planning, and I am pleased that Chicago United is stronger than it has ever been, even while it holds so much more promise for its next leader to help fulfill. I look forward to the next chapters in my life, and I'm eager to see how Chicago United will continue to deliver benefit to the community in the years to come."

John C. Robak, President of global engineering firm Greeley and Hansen and vice chairman of the Chicago United board of directors, will lead the board's executive search committee for her replacement. In the coming months, the committee will provide updates to Chicago United's members until a new leader has been selected.

"The Chicago region, including its senior business leaders, entrepreneurs, policy makers, and many others, owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Gloria for her unrivaled commitment to a more diverse and inclusive corps of business leaders," said Kip Kelley, Chief Executive Officer of Aon Affinity USA and chairman of the Chicago United board. "The board salutes her and we respect her decision to begin a new journey."

Robak, a long-time board member, praised Castillo and said the Chicago United members, which include many companies that have supported Chicago United for decades, and the organization's staff, will ensure continuity of programs and services until a new leader is in place.

"Gloria's courageous leadership and unwavering insistence that Chicago can be better by leveraging more diverse leadership in business has opened possibilities for countless people, and I know her civic participation and contributions will continue across the region," Robak added. "The organization will remain a vital force for change, and it will continue to deliver signature programs and services, including Five Forward, the Corporate Inclusion Institute, Business Leaders of Color, and more, that meet the high standards Gloria has set all these years."

Please note: Resume submissions will only be accepted by the retained executive search firm, which will be identified in June. Therefore, please do not forward any resumes to Chicago United staff or its Board of Directors. Any resumes submitted directly to Chicago United will not be sent along to the executive search firm or our search committee. Thank you for your cooperation.