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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Polly Anderson Announces Retirement as Executive Director of OETA

Oklahoma City, OK (October 24, 2024) – Polly Anderson, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA), has announced her retirement, effective March 31, 2025. Anderson made the announcement during the Friends of OETA board meeting, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to lead the organization and her appreciation for the team she has worked with.

“It has been the capstone of my career to lead OETA,” said Anderson. “This team is the best I have ever worked with, and I am deeply thankful for their professionalism and dedication to OETA and to Oklahoma.

Her work has been instrumental in building relationships and garnering support for public broadcasting within Oklahoma’s federal congressional delegation and the state legislature. In 2022, she received the National Advocacy Award from America’s Public Television Stations for her exceptional efforts in advocating for public media.

“It has been incredibly rewarding to spend my career supporting the mission of public television, providing essential public services in education, public safety, and civic leadership. I see every

day the profound impact our programming and services have on young learners across the state, delivering access to high-quality educational content and laying a strong foundation for their future. In moments of crisis, OETA is a vital source of communication, standing out as the only network capable of delivering essential statewide emergency alerts to keep Oklahomans informed and protected. Knowing that our work makes a difference in the lives of Oklahomans has made my career deeply fulfilling.”

With nearly 30 years of experience in public broadcasting, Anderson has held key leadership positions at various stations, including CEO roles at WUCF in Orlando, Florida, New Mexico PBS, and the PBS and NPR licensee in Waco, Texas. She has served on numerous national boards, including chairing America’s Public Television Stations and the National Educational Telecommunications Association. She currently serves as Chair of the Organization of State Broadcasting Executives (OSBE) and is a member of the Affinity Group Coalition.

Mr. Garrett King of Weatherford, who serves as President of the Board of Trustees of Friends Of OETA, Inc. and is a trustee of America’s Public Television Stations, Inc., as well as previously serving three consecutive terms as Chairman of the OETA Board of Directors as an appointee of Governor Mary Fallin remarked, “Polly Anderson leaves a lasting and powerful legacy at OETA. Her trailblazing service as the first woman to lead America’s most-watched PBS station will be remembered as a tenure marked by the most profound professionalism, high-caliber management, and steadfast devotion to OETA’s work in public safety, education, and civic engagement. A veteran of public media, Polly retires having worked with lawmakers and private supporters to effectively modernize the entirety of OETA’s physical and digital infrastructure, ensuring the viability and utility of this critical state asset for another quarter-century. It has been a great honor to serve OETA alongside the indomitable Polly Anderson, and I wish her very well on her next adventure,”

The OETA Board of Trustees will begin a national recruitment process to find Anderson’s successor.

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About OETA

OETA provides essential educational content and services that inform, inspire and connect Oklahomans to ideas and information that enrich our quality of life. We do this by consistently engaging Oklahomans with educational and public television programming, providing educational training and curriculum, outreach initiatives and online features that collectively encourage lifelong learning. For more information about education curriculum and programs, local productions, digital television, community resources and show schedules explore OETA.tv