

PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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AmericanHort Expects to Announce New CEO by Cultivate'16

Columbus, Ohio – The search for a new AmericanHort CEO is progressing successfully. With the help of AmericanHort member company, Key Corporate Services as the search firm, the search committee is optimistic that the right fit for both association and industry will be announced prior to Cultivate'16.

The search committee is comprised of representatives from the industry including:

Susie Raker-Zimmerman, C. Raker & Sons

Dan Batson, Greenforest Nursery

Bill Calkins, Ball Horticultural Company

Terri Cantwell, Bates Sons & Daughters

Tom Demaline, Willoway Nurseries Inc

Dale Deppe, Spring Meadow Nursery Inc

Mark Foertmeyer, Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouse

Lisa Graf, Graf Growers

Tom Hughes, Hughes Nursery & Landscaping

With the goal of expediting the process, the search committee is seeking candidates who embody the spirit of the industry and who possess a strong understanding of the AmericanHort mission and vision. Key Corporate Services has been an invaluable partner in this process and brings with it nearly 20 years in the industry placing the right people in the right positions.

The committee is actively interviewing candidates. Susie Raker, Chair of the search committee, says, “The Search Committee has worked very hard in conjunction with our search firm to determine ideal characteristics for a new CEO. Key Corporate Services has done a fantastic job finding valid candidates that fit the profile developed by the Search Committee. We are actively interviewing candidates and moving through the process. I’m confident we will have our new CEO by July.”

AmericanHort is currently operating under the leadership of Sherry L. Johnson, AmericanHort Vice President of Knowledge and Business Advancement and Interim CEO, as well as the team of Vice Presidents including Craig Regelbrugge, Senior VP of Industry Advocacy and Research, and Alicia Rittenhouse, VP of Member and Strategic Engagement. David Savoia, former Interim President & CEO, has stepped down from this position to pursue other priorities. “We are grateful for David’s 18 years of service to AmericanHort and the industry. He has shown great commitment to the success of OFA and now AmericanHort, and his leadership is commended. We wish him the best in his future endeavors,” said Dale Deppe, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

AmericanHort continues to bring the industry and its members opportunities to advance their businesses and grow their connections through the upcoming Cultivate'16 Experience (AmericanHort.org/Cultivate), Interior Plantscape Symposium (AmericanHort.org/IPS), GrowPro Plug & Cutting Conference (AmericanHort.org/Plug), webinars (AmericanHort.org/Webinars), government advocacy, and more. To see the latest, please visit AmericanHort.org and be sure to follow the latest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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AmericanHort was formed in 2014 by the consolidation of the American Nursery & Landscape Association and OFA – The Association of Horticulture Professionals. With a combined history of 220+

years, AmericanHort supports nearly 16,000 member and affiliated businesses that include breeders, greenhouse and nursery growers, garden retailers, distributors, interior and exterior landscape professionals, florists, students, educators, researchers, manufacturers, and all of those who are part of the industry market chain. The horticulture industry's production, wholesale, retail, and landscape service components have annual sales of \$163 billion, and sustain over 1.15 million full- and part-time jobs. Our mission is to unite, promote, and advance the horticulture industry through advocacy, collaboration, connectivity, education, market development, and research. The association has offices in Columbus, Ohio for administration and member services, and in Washington, DC to facilitate government relations and research activities.