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CONTACT:
Martha Powell
(214) 965-8409

World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth announces Liz Brailsford as new president and CEO

DALLAS – Jan. 11, 2021 - The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, a regional leader in educating and engaging the public on global affairs, announced today that Liz Brailsford will become its new president and chief executive officer.

Brailsford, who officially will assume the post on Feb. 15, has since 2018 been the chief operating officer of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) in Washington, which serves more than 90 affiliated councils across the United States.

In that role, she was instrumental in developing new resources of funding and generating strong cohesion among member councils and stakeholders. She previously served as a consultant to Panagora, a Washington-based implementing partner of the United States Agency for International Development.



Liz Brailsford

“I’m honored and thrilled to join WACDFW, one of the top World Affairs Councils in the nation. I am committed to doing everything in my capacity to springboard the Council onto an even higher plane. People are craving connection at this delicate crossroads in our society, and I look forward to engaging in critical foreign policy issues and in meaningful ways with our members, the board, staff, and our community,” Brailsford said.

The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed seven decades ago, hosts educational meetings and international speakers, supports trade and economic growth and connects North Texans with business and political influencers from around the globe.

“We are pleased to have a new president and CEO who so thoroughly understands the important mission of the World Affairs Councils,” said Jorge Baldor, chairman of the Council’s board of directors. Baldor, founder of the Latino Center for Leadership Development and Mercado369, led the search committee along with Council Treasurer David C. Meyer, a partner at Grant Thornton LLP.

Brailsford replaces retiring president and CEO Jim Falk, who said, “I could not be more pleased that Liz Brailsford, whom I have known through her work at WACA, will be my successor. I am confident she will take the Council in exciting new directions.”

Before WACA, Brailsford led the international department at Relocation Today, a Minnesota-based mobility company. She also served on the boards of multiple Japan-related nonprofits, including the Japan America Society of Minnesota and the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Alumni Association of Minnesota. She worked for several years in Japan for the JET Program.

Brailsford earned a master’s degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s degree in media arts from the University of South Carolina.

Other members of the search committee were Marjorie Adams, president of Marjorie A. Adams & Associates; C. Keith Cargill, former vice chairman of Texas Capital Bancshares; David M. Jacobs, partner at CDJ Family Investment, Ltd; Ambassador Robert W. Jordan, diplomat in residence and adjunct professor of political science in the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University; Patrick M. Murray, retired chairman and CEO of Dresser, Inc.; and Timothy Powers, managing partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP. The Council engaged Gabriela Norton of People Performance Resources to conduct the search.

About the World Affairs Council

The World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth is a community of learners, leaders and thinkers whose mission is to educate and engage the community in local, national, and global affairs. Individuals interested in membership to the World Affairs Council can visit dfwworld.org or call 214-965-8400.