

September 1, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Stranahan Foundation selects Executive Director

After national search for new leader, Foundation hires Ohio philanthropy veteran Breta Cooper



The Stranahan Foundation, a fifth-generation family foundation founded in Toledo, Ohio in 1944, is delighted to announce the appointment of Breta Cooper as Executive Director. Breta assumed the role August 15, 2022 and succeeds the late Pam Howell-Beach.

Breta began her career in philanthropy at the Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation, a family foundation based in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1996. Over the last 25 years she continued her professional development and education, and her career progressed through the organization becoming Director, Operations & New Programs in 2002 and Executive Vice President in 2008. Prior to accepting this position, Breta was Executive Director of the VIA Institute on Character, a global non-profit social enterprise dedicated to advancing the science and practice of character. Having a long history and broad set of experiences with non-profits and multi-generational family foundations, Breta will bring a wealth of insight, strategic and operational capabilities, and positive leadership to the Stranahan Foundation. She holds an MBA from Xavier University and a BA in Psychology from DePauw University.

“It’s an honor to be selected as the next leader of the Stranahan Foundation, which has a long history of generosity and thoughtful grantmaking, said Breta. “The Stranahan Foundation is an exceptional example of family philanthropy that has evolved over the years from focusing its grantmaking in the Toledo area to now reaching individuals, families, and communities across the country. I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the Board, family, and staff to maintain a commitment to the values of previous generations while continuing to look to the future.”

In the coming months, Breta will work with board leaders and staff to gain perspective and insight on the Foundation's key priorities including refining operational systems and processes, reviewing grantmaking strategies, and engaging the more than 200 family members residing across the country. "All of us at the foundation are very heartened and enthusiastic about having Breta join as our leader. We eagerly anticipate her maintaining the enterprise with its time-tested values and practices, while innovating resources to take us onward to its future," said Patrick Stranahan, Board President.

About The Stranahan Foundation

The Stranahan Foundation was formed in 1944 by brothers Frank D. and Robert A. Stranahan, founders of the Champion Spark Plug Company in Toledo, Ohio. Today, the Stranahan Foundation continues to be family-governed and is welcoming its fifth generation of leaders. In addition to a national funding program aimed at increasing the access to high-quality early childhood teaching and learning, the Foundation empowers family members to serve as "community stewards" through building grantmaking relationships with nonprofits addressing community-based needs within the Foundation's five focus areas: Human Services; Ecological Well-being; Education; Arts & Culture; and Physical & Mental Health. In honor of the Foundation's long-standing involvement in the Toledo community in 1997 the Stranahan Foundation established a Supporting Organization operated by the [Greater Toledo Community Foundation](#) to provide legacy grantmaking in perpetuity for the benefit of Toledo, Ohio.

To learn more visit StranahanFoundation.org

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