



**September 19, 2018**

## **DRESS FOR SUCCESS COLUMBUS ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR**

*Columbus Native, Angel Harris, to take the helm mid October*

Dress for Success Columbus is proud to announce and welcome Angel Harris as their new Executive Director. Harris, who joins with nearly 20 years of non-profit experience and deep professional roots in Central Ohio, will be responsible for the organization's overall strategic and operational leadership. Harris succeeds the Founder and CEO Vicki Bowen Hewes, who will remain in an advisory role for the rest of 2018. Bowen Hewes will hold the title of Founder Emeritus following the leadership transition.

Harris began her career non-profit career at Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center as an Accounting Manager & Systems Network Administrator. She then spent the subsequent 14 years in positions of increased responsibility and leadership at the United Way of Central Ohio. Beginning as a Program Analyst and then rising to Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer where she guided organizational strategies to achieve the following:

- Management and oversight of over 40 team members responsible for building relationships with philanthropists at all giving levels in our community to both reduce poverty and to create a more vibrant central Ohio community
- \$50 million in annual giving through 400 workplace campaigns, corporate and foundation grant development
- Implementation of organizational marketing strategies including customer engagement
- Oversight of Women's Leadership Council designed to help women increase earned potential
- Diversity and inclusion strategies including trainings for corporate partners

Her honors and awards are numerous including Executive Elements Woman of the Week, recognition in Who's Who in Black Columbus publications in 2005 through 2015 and 2014 Class of Business First's Forty Under 40. Harris holds a Bachelors Degree in Information Services from Franklin University and is a PhD candidate in Business Administration at that same institution.

"Angel's deep experience and proven success as a non-profit leader in Central Ohio will provide a level of expertise that will build upon the groundwork forged by our Founder, Vicki Bowen Hewes, and continue to build bridges to success for women in our community

for decades to come,” said Jill Dean, President of Dress for Success Columbus Board of Directors.

Emerging from a competitive application and interview process, Harris is humbled by and enthusiastic about the opportunity. “My entire career has been dedicated to Central Ohio and those who are seeking to emerge from challenges related to poverty. This position will allow me to leverage that experience to not only help Dress for Success Columbus and its staff continue its tremendous growth trajectory but to ensure that the women who are seeking a better life can be empowered in work and life through what Dress has to offer. I am honored to have this opportunity,” said Harris.

“Dress for Success Columbus is an agent of social change and I am so proud of our hard work and accomplishments over the past 11 years.” said Bowen Hewes. “As the Founder, I am continually inspired by the women we empower who rise above challenges and achieve, lifting themselves, their families and strengthening our community. I am grateful to have led such an amazing organization and its board, staff, volunteers, and for the unwavering commitment and generosity of our community partners and donors.”

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are deeply grateful to Vicki for her 11 years of service as our CEO during which time the organization has served over 14,000 women in our community.” said Jill Dean “We look forward to honoring Vicki and introducing Angel at this year’s Beyond the Suit Luncheon on October 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the luncheon visit us at [DFSCMH.org](http://DFSCMH.org)”

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*The mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. **Learn more [dfscmh.org](http://dfscmh.org)***