



The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society Names Karen Carpenter-Palumbo as President of Board of Directors

The Center for Women in Government & Civil Society announced that Karen Carpenter-Palumbo will become the next President of its Board of Directors for the years 2021-2025. “I am honored to lead this organization which has been instrumental in the development of so many women leaders in New York State and beyond and has been at the forefront of cutting-edge public policy research for over 40 years,” Carpenter-Palumbo stated.

Carpenter-Palumbo is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of Vanderheyden, a child welfare agency in the Capital District. She previously served as the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; President and CEO of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers; Vice President for the American Cancer Society; Executive Vice President for Government Programs of Capital District’s Physicians’ Health Plan; and Director of Children and Families of the New York State Office of Mental Health. Karen holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work and has received numerous awards, recognizing the key roles she plays in many communities. She is also a proud graduate of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society’s Fellowship on Women & Public Policy.

“Karen brings to this position exceptional leadership, governance talents, dedication, commitment and a phenomenal ability to move organizational agendas with such force and conviction. Under her Board leadership, the Center’s future looks extremely bright,” stated Mary Ellen Piche, former Board President. “I am honored to continue to work with a Board of women leaders who bring rich and diverse expertise and experiences to the work of the Center and who are extremely passionate about advancing the vision of the Center,” added Carpenter-Palumbo.



Current members of the Board of Directors include:

Karen Carpenter Palumbo, Board President
President and CEO Vanderheyden & Former CWGCS Fellow

Honorable Dr. Dorcey Appllys
Albany City Auditor and Former CWGCS Fellow

Honorable Lola Brabham
Commissioner, NYS Department of Civil Service

Dr. Shai Butler
Vice President for Student Development and Chief Diversity Officer, College of St. Rose

Terri Crowley
Executive Deputy Comptroller for Operations, NYS Office of the State Comptroller

Dr. Gloria DeSole
Former Senior Advisor to the President for Affirmative Action and Employment Planning, UAlbany

Honorable Patricia Fahy
Assembly Member, New York State Assembly

Desiree Farley
Medicaid Program Director, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, NYS Department of Health and Former CWGCS Fellow

Dr. Janell Hobson
Professor and Chair, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Canon Kay C. Hotaling
Canon to the Ordinary and Diocesan Deployment Officer, Episcopal Diocese of Albany

Honorable Rachel Kretser
Albany City Court Judge (Retired), Criminal Division

Angelica (Ang) Morris
Former Executive Director, Human Rights Commission, Schenectady

Honorable Kelli Owens
Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Susan Pedo
Public Affairs & Communications Consultant

Honorable Sheila Poole
Commissioner, NYS Office for Children & Family Services

Dr. Deb Privott
Assistant Dean for Public Engagement, College of Arts & Sciences, University at Albany

Christina Romeo
Communications and Marketing Manager, NYS Library Association

Deborah Snyder
Former Chief Information Security Officer; NYS Office of Information Technology Services

Mary Ellen Piche
Former CEO, Stratton VA Medical Center and Consultant

Kathleen Brady-Stepien
President and CEO, Council of Family & Child Caring Agencies, Former CWGCS Fellow

Ruth Walters
President, The Walters Group

Gwen Wright
Former Executive Director, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

CWGCS seeks to deepen and broaden political access and economic opportunities for women by strengthening the capacity of government, nonprofit and business sectors to implement gender-responsive, inclusive and equitable policies, practices and services. CWGCS has four focus areas: 1) women in leadership, 2) economic security, 3) health systems and gender-based disparity, and 4) safety and wellbeing. For further information about CWGCS, please visit us at www.albany.edu/womeningov/