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**Global Minnesota President Carol Engebretson Byrne Stepping Down after 21 Years,
Board Announces Executive Search**

MINNEAPOLIS, July 11, 2018 – Global Minnesota announces that Carol Engebretson Byrne will step down from her position as president in January 2019 after leading the organization for 21 years.

Prior to her tenure at Global Minnesota (formerly the Minnesota International Center), Carol worked in New York City for international nonprofits including AFS-USA and YMCA Program Services and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Under Byrne’s leadership, Global Minnesota has created groundbreaking programs on important international topics, engaging tens of thousands in Minnesota to know more and care more about the world. The organization has financially grown by more than 300 percent and has experienced transformational change with Byrne at the helm, including increased outreach to the community, more free programs to remove barriers to expert insights on the key foreign policy issues of our day, the initiation of a robust corporate membership program, a move to a new facility, and the organization’s rebrand and name change to ensure its vital and engaging mission remains relevant for future generations.

Byrne’s departure will mark the end of an important time for the organization, which has only had five presidents or executive directors throughout its 65-year history of advancing international understanding and knowledge in Minnesota. “I am privileged to have served as a steward of the worthy mission of this amazing organization that makes such a positive difference in our community and world,” Byrne said.

Byrne will leave the organization in a strong position with expanded programs, diversified funding, an expert staff, and engaged board. She noted that, “Global Minnesota has a national reputation and is well respected in the field. Today, we are one of the top World Affairs Councils in the nation, have the largest Great Decisions program in the country, and host more than 400 U.S. Department of State international visitors. I feel the time is right for me personally and professionally to move on to new opportunities and pass the torch to the next leader.”

Board Chair Ertugrul Tuzcu said of Byrne, “Carol has excelled in this role. Her passion and knowledge about global issues, tirelessness in advocating for the mission, and innovative and enthusiastic leadership, have resulted in the vibrant organization Global Minnesota is today. On behalf of the full

board, I want to express our deep gratitude to Carol for her service and leadership to this organization, this state, and this mission.”

The Board of Directors is actively engaged in the process to select Global Minnesota’s next leader, naming a search committee led by Mike Meyer, former head of human resources for Ecolab. Ballinger | Leafblad, a prominent search firm with deep experience in the nonprofit sector, has been chosen as a partner. The process is underway to ensure a smooth transition from Carol to the new Global Minnesota President by January 15, 2019.

About Global Minnesota

[Global Minnesota](http://www.globalminnesota.org) (www.globalminnesota.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, member-supported organization that connects individuals, organizations, and communities to the world. Through a unique series of programs offered across the state, Global Minnesota takes relevant and timely information on global issues, foreign policy, and cultural topics and provides the space and opportunity for Minnesotans to engage and discuss. Programs are designed for Minnesotans – from the 2nd grader to the CEO – to connect with others from around the globe, serve as citizen diplomats, and gain a deeper understanding of the world. Global Minnesota is in the top ten World Affairs Councils of America and received the Council of Ambassadors Award in 2014 from the Foreign Policy Association for expanding global discussion groups in Minnesota.

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