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Technology Alliance announces Carol Rava as new CEO

SEATTLE, WA, January 13, 2016 – The Board of the Technology Alliance has selected Carol Rava as the new CEO of the organization, succeeding Susannah Malarkey, who has been the Executive Director of the Technology Alliance since its inception in 1996.

Rava brings a wealth of experience to her new assignment leading the Technology Alliance, a not-for-profit organization of technology leaders committed to a vibrant innovation economy that benefits all of Washington State's citizens. Previously Rava co-launched Get Schooled, a digital and game-based platform to motivate low-income teens to graduate from high school and go on to college. In prior roles, she served as Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships at Seattle Public Schools and Deputy Director of Education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Today Washington is known as a technology-friendly state - for companies and increasingly for students. This is in a large part due to the work of the Technology Alliance over the past 20 years," said Rava. "I am honored and humbled to take the helm of this organization and look forward to continuing to create an education, economic and research climate conducive to innovation and supportive of the technology sector at-large."

Cheryl Vedoe, Chair of the Technology Alliance and CEO of Apex Learning, commented that "The entire board is thrilled to have Carol Rava take over as the next leader of the Technology Alliance. We have accomplished a great deal during Susannah Malarkey's tenure and we know Carol will build on our past accomplishments as we face the challenges of growing and sustaining our success as a leading technology state."

Over the past 20 years, the Technology Alliance has brought together leaders from across the state's technology sector to create a shared vision of how Washington can support and embrace innovation – from research to company investment to the classroom. In the process, the Technology Alliance has created programs that demonstrate what a technology-infused climate can do for young people (Youth Apps challenge), for aspiring women developers (Ada Developers Academy), for investors and entrepreneurs (Alliance of Angels), and for the broader innovation sector (Technology Institute and Discovery Series). Click here to view accomplishments of the Technology Alliance.

Malarkey noted that "Carol is the perfect leader at the perfect time for this organization. I am excited to be leaving the Technology Alliance in such competent and talented hands. I know she will build on our 20 year legacy of achievement and make a big impact statewide."

Upcoming events include a daylong conference, "Realizing the Potential of Virtual Reality", on January 28th and the annual State of Technology Luncheon featuring keynote speaker, Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, on May 2nd.

Rava will begin her new role on March 14, 2016. Malarkey will complete her twenty year tenure on January 29, 2016 and Liz Gruber, a former program director of the Technology Alliance, will return to serve as Interim Executive Director for the six weeks between fulltime leaders.

About the Technology Alliance
The Technology Alliance is a statewide, not-for-profit organization of leaders from Washington's technology-based businesses and research institutions united by our vision of a vibrant innovation economy that benefits all of our state's citizens. Through programs, events, data analysis, and policy activities, we advance excellence in education, research, and entrepreneurship to support the growth of our high-impact industries; the creation of high-wage jobs; and economic prosperity for our entire state. For more information visit www.technology-alliance.com.