



NEWS RELEASE

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University Area CDC Announces Upcoming Change in Leadership

Tampa, Fla. – The University Area CDC (Community Development Corporation) announces that its long-serving executive director/CEO, Dr. Sarah Combs, will be leaving her post this August to transition to CEO of Metropolitan Ministries, following the retirement of current CEO Tim Marks.

Dr. Combs has served University Area CDC for over a decade, transforming the organization into a nationally recognized model for place-based community redevelopment. Under her leadership, University Area CDC has launched innovative programs focused on education, health, workforce development and housing stability. Her work has significantly advanced the organization's mission to serve the residents of Tampa's University Area with dignity and equity.

"As Board Chair, I want to acknowledge the weight of this transition and express our deepest gratitude for the leadership and heart Dr. Combs has brought to UACDC," said Dr. Eric Eisenberg, UACDC board chair. "Her dedication has left an indelible mark on the organization and the community we serve. While change is never easy, it also opens the door to new possibilities. We remain steadfast in our mission and optimistic about the future. We look forward to building on the strong foundation she helped create and to forging new partnerships that will continue to uplift and empower our community."

During her tenure, Dr. Combs led the development of the University Area's Harvest Hope Park, brought forward the innovative Prodigy Cultural Arts program, and spearheaded a successful \$5 million capital campaign to expand community facilities and services.

"I am deeply honored to take on this next chapter at Metropolitan Ministries," said Dr. Combs. "At the same time, leaving UACDC has been one of the most difficult decisions in my career. This organization is more than a workplace – it's a family, a mission, and a source of deep pride. The community we serve has inspired me every single day with its resilience, strength, and unwavering spirit. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have walked alongside so many passionate individuals committed to creating lasting change. While this chapter is closing, I remain hopeful and excited about the future. I look forward to continuing to support this community in new ways and to building partnerships that carry forward the legacy of UACDC's incredible work."

A formal search is now underway for the next executive director/CEO of University Area CDC. The organization is committed to finding a visionary leader to continue its impact of collaboration, innovation, and community-centered development.

Dr. Combs will officially transition to her new role at Metropolitan Ministries in mid-August.

Celebrating 26 years of serving the community, University Area CDC offers support for thousands of Tampa residents through family programs, adult education and resource assistance. Its primary mission is the redevelopment and sustainability of the at-risk areas surrounding University of South Florida's Tampa campus. For more information about University Area CDC, visit www.UACDC.org or call 813.558.5212.

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