



eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**



## For Immediate Release

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## PRESIDENT & CEO OF DUBUQUE COMMUNITY YMCA/YWCA RESIGNS

**(Dubuque, September 14, 2018)**– Sharon Covey, the president and CEO of the Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA, has resigned, effective September 13. She had been the president and CEO since 2013.

Wendy Knight, volunteer chairperson of the 16-member Board of Directors states, “We are grateful for the leadership Sharon provided these past five years. Along with her staff, they created a vision for the future of the Y, and we are in a good place today. We will work to fulfill that vision of creating a strong and vibrant Y for our community. We wish Sharon the best during this transition.”

Knight notes that Covey’s resignation is a confidential personnel matter and is unable to elaborate on details of the resignation.

The Y has been a fixture in the community for over 150 years. It offers wellness programming for all ages, including an indoor swimming pool, weight room and numerous fitness classes. The Y also operates a domestic abuse shelter for women; childcare for infants through four year olds at two daycare centers; before- and after-school programming at 9 area elementary schools, and the Y Day Camp and Zipline facility in Dubuque.

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Knight comments that, "The Y is well-positioned to continue its work and be driven by its mission to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adult, families and communities. Working together, our current staff and a committed volunteer Board of Directors will continue to offer – and grow – programs for our members, women and families who use our services. We are also eager to continue with our plans for the future, including the capital campaign to build a new facility."

"We launched a capital campaign May of 2018 because of the overwhelming need in our community for a larger, more modern facility that will better serve the health and wellness needs, provide gathering space for other non-profits and community groups, and address the need for space as our programs linked to our mission continue to grow. We will not waiver in our commitment to that campaign during this internal staffing transition. We look forward to welcoming a new CEO to continue the Y into its future."

The Dubuque Y is a member of the national association for YMCA/YWCA's called Y-USA. Knight notes that resources are available to staff leaders at all times, and will be an additional source of expertise and support during the CEO transition.

The Board of Directors has formed a CEO transition committee, which will determine the method and timeline for choosing an interim leader, supporting current staff and filling the CEO position. Knight anticipates that the process to find a new CEO could take several months.

*The Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA serves 15,000 individuals annually in membership and programs with 12 childcare sites located throughout Dubuque and surrounding areas. The Y offers health and wellness activities and programs that include youth sports, school-age and pre-school child care, summer day camp, aquatics, Zipline and classes for all ages. The Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA is a leading nonprofit strengthening our community through youth development, healthy living, social responsibility, eliminating racism, and empowering women.*

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