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Rise Announces Leadership Transition

President and CEO Lynn Noren will retire after 45 years at the North Metro disability support services provider.

FRIDLEY, Minn. (May 8, 2024) – Lynn Noren, President and CEO of Rise, has announced her retirement after 45 years of dedicated service, marking the first leadership transition at the North Metro-based disability services provider in more than a decade.

Noren began her career as an intern with Rise in the 1970s and has held various positions within the Twin Cities nonprofit before assuming the top leadership role in 2013. She is an ardent supporter of disability employment and community-based support services across Minnesota and Wisconsin and has been a tireless advocate in the Minnesota state legislature, ensuring all Minnesotans are represented in policy and budget decisions.

"In many ways, I grew up at Rise at the same time Rise was 'growing up,' and I treasure that experience," she said. "I feel so fortunate to have worked closely with the exceptional people we serve, their families, our incredibly talented team members, and community supporters."

Under Noren's leadership, Rise successfully navigated a merger with East Metro and Wisconsin-based ESR in 2019 and guided the organization through the challenges posed by the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic, which resulted in a shutdown of support services and staffing furloughs. Since then, she has worked to expand both employment and life enrichment disability services in new and innovative ways that increase community visibility. Rise also recently transitioned center-based work programs to community-based jobs.

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"The time is right for me for several reasons," Noren said. "Together, we have made great progress to advance our programs and services as well as Rise's administrative capabilities in my time as president & CEO. I feel confident that a new leader will join us at a time that is ripe for developing future strategies for the organization."

Noren will be retiring when a new leader is in place before the end of 2024. The Rise Board of Directors is working with a national search firm to recruit qualified candidates. Updates can be found at rise.org/ceo-transition/.

About Rise

Since 1971, Rise has been a leading provider of employment and enrichment services to people with disabilities and other challenges in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin. Rise unlocks potential and opens doors to success through creative solutions and customized support. Each year, Rise serves more than 2,500 people and connects them with the right job, a safe place to call home, and one-of-a-kind growth and support.

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