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CLC Network announces new executive director

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH (May 2015) CLC Network (Christian Learning Center) is pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Lucas Dombrowski to the position of executive director effective September 1, 2015. Elizabeth will lead the \$1.25 million consulting organization that currently serves more than 60 schools in seven states, as well as hundreds of churches across North America.

With more than ten years of non-profit management experience and a personal passion for inclusion of persons with disabilities, Elizabeth has helped CLC Network expand nationwide since 2012, when she began as the organization's Advancement Director. For the past three years, she has served as an effective fundraiser, creative communicator, and thoughtful leader. Elizabeth is eager to build upon CLC Network's West Michigan roots and bring inclusion into communities across North America.

Elizabeth said, "CLC Network has a history of audacity: dreaming of inclusive education for all of God's children as the norm. That was a radical dream in 1989, and it came true for many Christian school and church communities in West Michigan. It is time to make that dream the reality across North America, and across God's Kingdom, so that persons with disabilities can contribute their gifts to our school and church communities."

Bob Van Wieren, president of CLC Network's board of directors shared, "As a Board, our goal is to be the recognized leader and esteemed partner for inclusive education in Christian communities. We are thrilled to appoint Elizabeth to this position and to entrust her to lead CLC Network, as we actively pursue our vision for more complete communities."

"I want every administrator, teacher, or leader in any Christian school or church to know that when they struggle to educate a child with a disability, they are not alone. They will know that CLC Network is here to help them, to support them, and to make the Kingdom whole alongside them," continued Elizabeth. "I am humbled and honored to work with an incredible team of knowledgeable Christian educators and psychologists. My job will be to enable them to share God's love by the encouragement and support they show to all those served by CLC Network."

Elizabeth will combine her leadership skills and talents with those of CLC Network's new Director of School Services, Becky Tubergen. Becky has served at CLC Network for the past

sixteen years and will guide the organization through the expansion of its services in the years ahead.

Tubergen said, "Elizabeth has fostered strategic partnerships and provided visionary leadership that has already helped us grow. I am thrilled about her appointment to this position and look forward to working with her to ensure our partners receive consistent, high-quality services."

"We've transformed so many communities in the last 30 years," said R. H. "Bear" Berends, executive director since 1981. "And I know that our next generation of leadership is going to multiply and expand those efforts. Our staff and our board are passionate about encouraging every Christian school in every state to serve students with disabilities and to see students with disabilities as equal, integral members of their community."

An event honoring the first-generation of CLC Network leadership (including R.H. "Bear" Berends) and celebrating CLC Network's 35th anniversary will take place on Tuesday, October 20, at the Watermark Country Club (Grand Rapids, MI).

About the Selection Process:

In the fall of 2014, the CLC Network board of directors appointed the executive search committee, chaired by Bob Van Wieren, board president. The committee screened and interviewed multiple candidates and recommended Elizabeth Lucas Dombrowski to the board on May 12, 2015. The board unanimously approved Elizabeth as the next executive director.

About Elizabeth Lucas Dombrowski:

Elizabeth served in fundraising and visitor and membership services at the Adler Planetarium (Chicago, IL) after obtaining her Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN). Originally from Grand Rapids, MI, Elizabeth has been personally affected by CLC Network's services – her sister was a student at the Christian Learning Center in the 1980's. Elizabeth said, "It has long been a meaningful organization to me and my family, and I am in awe at the way God has allowed me to serve this mission."

About CLC Network:

CLC Network is a national non-profit committed to promoting the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities. The organization partners with families and organizations to more fully understand individuals with disabilities and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of life. For more information on CLC Network or a list of available resources, visit www.clcnetwork.org.

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