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**The Raymond John Wean Foundation Appoints New President**

After a six-month national search, the board of directors of the Warren-based Raymond John Wean Foundation has named Jeffrey M. Glebocki as its next President to lead efforts to improve the quality of life in the Mahoning Valley.

Glebocki is a Northeast Ohio native who will be returning to the area having lived in Arizona since 2004. He is familiar with the unique opportunities and challenges of the Mahoning Valley based on his earlier career in Cleveland and Lorain County.

Glebocki said he was interested in the position because he believes he has the right mix of skills to help The Raymond John Wean Foundation continue its bold and pro-active work in the Mahoning Valley. His experiences, which include working with small and large organizations, have helped him acquire an important understanding of the role that foundations can play in the overall health of a community.

Gordon Wean, chairman of the Board of The Raymond John Wean Foundation, said more than 100 people applied for the position as president of the foundation.

“We were very careful and deliberate in this hiring process. We wanted a person who would be able to build upon the important work that we have already begun in the community,” Wean said. “Jeff Glebocki brings a sensitive and developed understanding of community, leadership, problem-solving, and grantmaking.”

Wean said Glebocki’s expertise in capacity building and leadership development initiatives for grassroots organizations is in sync with the foundation’s priorities and long-range goals. “We believe he is a perfect fit for the position and know he will make great contributions to the Mahoning Valley,” Wean said.

Glebocki commented many of his work experiences carry the common theme of “helping achieve positive outcomes for individuals, organizations and communities.”

Glebocki is founder and principal of Strategy + Action Consulting, LLC based in Tucson, Ariz. He will join The Raymond John Wean Foundation in July.

In his first months with the Foundation, Glebocki anticipates learning as much as possible about the current issues, concerns and work being done in the Mahoning Valley. “I’ll be listening, asking lots of questions, and meeting with individuals and organizations throughout the region,” Glebocki said of his approach to community engagement.

“My prior experiences have taken me into church basements for neighborhood meetings and into corporate boardrooms for strategy sessions, out to talks with the Farm Bureau and to national conferences with high-level decision makers,” he said.

Glebocki described himself as “hard-wired” to know what strategies and tactics work in communities like the Mahoning Valley.

He also said he is philosophically committed to helping cultivate civic engagement and stewardship. Glebocki said that the key to thriving communities is strong resident engagement, and he wants to work to identify and nurture people who will work for long-term community success. “Taken in whole, I believe that my demonstrated experience is that of a civic steward,” Glebocki said.

Glebocki will be succeeding Joel Ratner, who left The Raymond John Wean Foundation for a position with a Cleveland citywide neighborhood development organization. Under Ratner’s nearly four-year term as president, The Raymond John Wean Foundation was transformed from a largely family-focused foundation to a community asset committed to helping solve community challenges and capitalizing upon opportunities.

Glebocki said he looks forward to continuing many of the initiatives that were launched under Ratner’s tenure. Early on in his conversations with the Foundation’s Board, he said: “I have come to admire the bold path and accomplishments of The Raymond John

Wean Foundation during my research about this assignment. The thoughtful, pro-active approach the Foundation is taking is producing results and building on the inherent strengths of the Mahoning Valley. It should be looked at as a model for others in philanthropy.”

Ratner said he was pleased with the selection of Glebocki as his successor. “I know Jeff Glebocki’s work and reputation and believe that he will be a strong president for The Raymond John Wean Foundation,” Ratner said. “When I left The Raymond John Wean Foundation for an opportunity in Cleveland it was with a great deal of mixed emotions. I was sad to leave behind the great work that we were doing and the incredible organizations and leaders in the Mahoning Valley. I now feel quite heartened that Jeff Glebocki will be taking over the presidency of The Raymond John Wean Foundation and believe he will carry on and advance the foundation’s critical mission.”

As founder of his own consulting firm, Glebocki has worked with foundations, institutions and nonprofit organizations around the country, including several in Ohio. Much of his work revolved around education grantmaking, strengthening philanthropic practices and building organizational capacity. Among his various projects, he has served as a consultant to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Center on Education Policy, Helios Education Foundation, the Ramsey Executive Education Program at Arizona State University, the Stranahan Foundation, and the Treu-Mart Fellowship Program at Case Western Reserve University.

Glebocki is on the faculty of the Association of Small Foundations, and has co-authored articles published by the National Center for Family Philanthropy, Grantmakers for Education and other organizations.

Prior to launching his consulting enterprise, Glebocki was a program officer with several foundations, including the Virginia Piper Charitable Trust in Scottsdale, Ariz., the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland and the Nord Family Foundation in Elyria.

Before entering the philanthropic field, he served as senior staff to several community based neighborhood economic development organizations in Cleveland. Glebocki earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in urban studies from Cleveland State University.

Through its capacity building initiative and focus, The Raymond John Wean Foundation is committed to helping the Mahoning Valley become a healthy place to live, work and raise families. The Raymond John Wean Foundation awards between \$3.5 million and \$4 million to organizations that are working to help the area become known for equity, innovation and collaboration. The Foundation seeks to help foster initiatives that will create a robust civic life and a dynamic and diversified economy with a good range of jobs and safe and attractive neighborhoods.

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