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## PEF Names Director of Development & External Relations

### *Christa Payne Brings Energy and Enthusiasm to Newly Established Position*

The Public Education Foundation has named Christa S. Payne as Director of Development and External Relations. Ms. Payne will direct the foundation's fundraising efforts, including the creation of a long-range development plan.

Ms. Payne is currently employed by Allegis Group/TEKsystems in Chattanooga, where she helped generate more than \$1,500,000 in new account revenue in two years.

Her resume includes two years as Major Gifts Officer at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, NH, where she was responsible for building and maintaining a portfolio of 150-200 major donors. She also helped to complete an \$8.5 million capital campaign for a school athletics facility.

"We did a careful search to find the best person for this position," said Dan Challener, President of PEF. "Christa brings exactly the sort of expertise we need to develop a strong and innovative development program at PEF," he added.

Ms. Payne agrees that the fit is right. "I'm excited at the opportunity to work at PEF," she said. "I'm a strong believer in public education, and PEF plays an important role as a partner to the public schools here. Hamilton County schools have done some truly great work as a result of that partnership. I can't wait to get out and tell that story," said Ms. Payne.

According to PEF Board Chairman Jim Hill, Ms. Payne fills the job requirement of being passionate about PEF's mission and visionary in how to assure continuity for that mission by strengthening and expanding the organization's support. "Christa demonstrates the energy, creativity and collaborative spirit this job needs," said Mr. Hill.

Ms. Payne holds a degree in psychology from the University of the South. She has volunteered for her alma mater as well as the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Siskin Children's Institute. She is a charter member of the North Chattanooga Moms Group.

Hamilton County's Public Education Foundation partners with Hamilton County Schools to help students succeed by offering professional training and coaching for teachers, principals and administrators; human and financial resources to promote research-based innovation; and research that promotes continuous achievement. In the past several years, PEF has helped to bring millions of dollars in supplemental, philanthropic funding to the school system.

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