AMERICASPEAKS ANNOUNCES STEVE BRIGHAM AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT

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Washington, D.C. – AmericaSpeaks, the leading national nonprofit focused on citizen engagement, is announcing that Steve Brigham will assume the role of President on July 1. Mr. Brigham has served as the organization’s Chief Operating Officer and during his tenure the organization has engaged more than 165,000 citizens and stakeholders.

Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, AmericaSpeaks current President, is departing to lead the National Institute for Civil Discourse, which was established by the University of Arizona following the shooting of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, with former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton serving as Honorary Chairmen. Dr. Lukensmeyer will remain on the Board of Directors at AmericaSpeaks, the organization she founded 17 years ago.

AmericaSpeaks Advisory Board member Mickey Edwards, a former Oklahoma Congressman and current Vice President of the Aspen Institute, lauded the announcement, saying “During Mr. Brigham’s decade at AmericaSpeaks he has shown himself to be an effective leader, both within the organization and in the broader citizen engagement community. AmericaSpeaks is sure to flourish under his leadership.”

“This is an exciting moment for AmericaSpeaks. In an era where more governments and organizations understand the value of participatory, deliberative processes than ever before, we’re able to build on an incredible legacy of engaging the public in shaping policy, creating conversations that lead to meaningful action, and using technology to achieve scale,” said Mr. Brigham.

Dr. Lukensmeyer, who has served as AmericaSpeaks President since founding the organization in 1995, will continue strategic involvement in the organization by continuing to serve on the Board of Directors for the organization while in her new position at the National Institute for Civil Discourse. She spoke proudly of the organization she founded and in Mr. Brigham, the successor chosen by AmericaSpeaks’ board earlier this month. “I am thrilled to see Steve Brigham take the helm. Over our years of working together, I’ve seen both how deep his commitment to participatory democracy goes and what an exceptional leader he is. I look forward to supporting Steve and AmericaSpeaks from my new vantage point and to establishing a productive and collaborative relationship between the two organizations.”

Other prominent AmericaSpeaks supporters are equally optimistic about the transition. Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution and former Congressional Budget Office Director, Alice Rivlin, praised both leaders. “Carolyn has been a visionary leader and founder, and I’m delighted that she will be able to continue playing a significant role with the organization. Steve has the talent both to expertly apply AmericaSpeaks’ citizen engagement values and methodologies and to lead the organization in the years going forward.”

Prior to joining AmericaSpeaks, Mr. Brigham was a strategic planning consultant with the Kaludis Consulting Group and at Group Decision Support Systems. From 1993-1997, he served as national project director at the American Association for Higher Education and was involved in numerous citizen diplomacy initiatives in the 1980’s, including a cross-country march to raise awareness about the perils of the nuclear arms race with 500 citizens from around the world and walks in the US and USSR involving nearly 1,000 American and Soviet citizens during the ground-breaking years of glasnost and perestroika.
Mr. Brigham received a Masters degree in Organizational Development from Johns Hopkins University, where he also completed a fellowship program in change management.

For more information, please contact Elana Goldstein at (202) 775-3939 x. 1019.

AmericaSpeaks is a non-profit organization that convenes large-scale initiatives to engage citizens and leaders on difficult and important policy issues. For more information, please visit www.americaspeaks.org

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