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***FIRST* in Texas Foundation Names Christine Pollei President and Executive Director**

AUSTIN, Texas (April 20, 2017) – The *FIRST* in Texas Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports *FIRST*[®] Robotics teams and events across Texas, today announced it has appointed Christine Pollei to serve as President and Executive Director. In this role, Christine will be responsible for working closely with the statewide robotics community and continuing expansion of *FIRST* programs in Texas.

Christine has spent the last 12 years effectively informing and transitioning organizations of all types and sizes. An experienced multi-sector change manager and organizational developer, she is fluent in establishing processes to identify, develop and solicit alternative funding sources and revenue streams as well as developing sustainable growth models.

“Christine Pollei has a solid history of leadership running organizations like *FIRST* in Texas with a similar commitment to improving opportunities for children,” said Ray Almgren, Chair and Founder, *FIRST* in Texas Foundation. “Christine will guide the growth of all *FIRST* programs as we partner with the UIL to make robotics programs available to all schools in Texas.”

Most recently, Christine served as the CEO of Marathon Kids, a national NPO headquartered in Austin, Texas. During her tenure, Marathon Kids grew their national programmatic footprint from three states to 47 states and doubled and diversified their revenue stream. She also successfully founded two for-profit businesses.



“I am thrilled and honored to serve as President and Executive Director of *FIRST* in Texas,” said Christine Pollei of her new role. “I look forward to building upon the great work the Board, mentors, funders and partners have begun, to inspire young people’s interest and participation in science and technology in the great state of Texas.”

Christine Pollei will join the *FIRST* in Texas Foundation on May 1, 2017.

About the *FIRST* in Texas Foundation

The *FIRST*[®] in Texas Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports *FIRST*[®] Robotics teams and events across Texas with a focus on increasing accessibility for low-income and underrepresented students. *FIRST*[®] participants are significantly more likely to attend college, major in science or engineering, and be outstanding future employees and citizens. By investing in Texas students’ participation in *FIRST*[®], we address the growing demands of the STEM workforce. Read more about the *FIRST*[®] in Texas Foundation at www.firstintexas.org.

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