



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Lancaster Chamber Announces New Roles for Molly Crouser as Director of Events & Partnerships and Julie Houck as Director of Finance**

**Lancaster, PA (November 18, 2022)** – The Lancaster Chamber is pleased to announce and welcome Molly Crouser and Julie Houck into their new roles at the Chamber as Director of Events & Partnerships and Director of Finance, respectively.

In her new position as Director of Events & Partnerships, Molly will lead strategic direction on, and the team responsible for, the organization's events, programs, and training opportunities, as well as direct accountability for several special events like the renowned Annual Dinner. Molly leads the Chamber's sponsorship and business engagement opportunities connected to the organization's events, programs, and initiatives. Molly also represents the Chamber and cultivates strategic partnerships with community stakeholders that help move the needle on key, local initiatives like business education partnerships and transportation.

A champion for creating a thriving local community, Molly was named to the 2021 Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives 40 Under 40 and a 2021 graduate of Leadership Lancaster.

Molly graduated from Susquehanna University in 2013 with a degree in Sociology served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Massachusetts Campus Compact prior to joining the Lancaster Chamber. Molly enjoys traveling, puzzles, crafting, baking goodies, is a self-identified foodie and currently volunteers as a Historic Walking Tour Guide in Downtown Lancaster.

Julie will take on her new role once current Director of Finance, Steve Progin, retires on November 23, 2022. As Director of Finance, Julie will oversee all the fiscal operations for the Chamber and strategically lead the organization to achieve fiscal & operational excellence and sustainability.

Julie graduated from Elizabethtown College where she studied Accounting. She is a certified public accountant and joined the Chamber in 2014 as Bookkeeper and progressed through the Finance Department with her most recent position being Staff Accountant.

She began her career at RKL, LLP and started working for the Lancaster Chamber in \_\_\_ responsible for daily accounting support for the Lancaster Chamber and providing full accounting Services for partner tenants at 115 E. King Street: EDC Companies, Central Penn Business Group on Health, Leadership Lancaster, Lancaster City Alliance, and The Downtown Investment District.

Julie is an active Girl Scout volunteer and has been a Troop Leader for Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA for past 13 years. She serves as the Service Unit Lead for the Donegal and Elizabethtown School Districts and served as a Council Delegate for 2020 and 2021

“We couldn’t be happier that both Molly and Julie have accepted to take on these new roles with the organization.” commented Heather Valudes, President & CEO. “Both Molly and Julie have been with the Chamber for a number of years, and these transitions are a natural evolution of the work and passion they have invested into the mission and vision of organization, supporting our business community and building a thriving community for all.”

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*At the Lancaster Chamber, our mission is to create the environment, facilitate partnerships, and lead on issues that elevate business success. Established in 1872, the Chamber is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, commemorating 150 years of impact, support, engagement, and leadership for the Lancaster County business community. The Chamber continues to leverage the collective strength of the business community. By advancing a pro-business agenda, supporting community-focused initiatives, including Workforce, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and being committed to providing resources for all business professionals – the Chamber strives to build Lancaster into a thriving community for all.*