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Public Policy Forum names new research director
Virginia Carlson to join the Forum staff in early July

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – *Friday, June 28, 2013* – The Public Policy Forum has hired Virginia Carlson, former director of the Metro Chicago Information Center and former Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as its new research director. She will succeed Anneliese Dickman, who is leaving the Forum after 14 years.

Carlson has an extensive policy research background with specific expertise in data development and analysis. From 2009 to 2012, she directed a Chicago-based nonprofit research organization that collected and analyzed data on social policy and human needs for the metropolitan Chicago region. Prior to that, she taught for 13 years at UWM's School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and also consulted on several national economic development research efforts, including projects for the Brookings Institution and the U.S. Census Bureau. Carlson also served as research director for World Business Chicago and in research positions for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

“Anneliese Dickman has been a key part of the Forum’s success during the past 14 years and her expertise in education policy, as well as her research and writing skills, will be sorely missed,” says Forum President Rob Henken. “We are extremely fortunate, however, to have landed Virginia Carlson as her successor.”

“Virginia’s research credentials and experience in economic development and social policy make her perfectly suited for the position and promise to take the Forum’s 100-year tradition of rigorous, nonpartisan research to even greater heights,” he added.

Carlson has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University, as well as a Master’s degree in Urban Planning and Policy and a Bachelor’s degree in Architectural History from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She will begin work for the Forum on July 8.

“It is an honor to be selected to lead the research team of a public policy think tank that has such stature and credibility in metro Milwaukee and nationally,” says Carlson. “I look forward to working with the Forum’s staff and Trustees to uphold its tradition of thorough, objective and high-quality public policy research that will drive informed decision-making in our region.”

Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum – which was established in 1913 as a local government watchdog – is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of government and the development of southeastern Wisconsin through objective research of regional public policy issues.