

## **Press Release: CAT's New Executive Director**

Community Access Television has named Anne Shelley of Fayetteville as its new executive director. Shelley will begin at the CAT full-time in mid July.

Committees began the search process in February, first by rewriting the job description of station manager to executive director. "The change in leadership styles reflects our desire to focus on outreach and development to ensure CAT's continued success," said David A. Young, board member.

CAT is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, making it one of the nation's oldest public access stations.

A total of 27 applications were submitted for the new position. Four finalists were interviewed and the search committee recommended Shelley to the full board on June 15.

The search committee consisted of Rose Sparrow, chair; David A. Young, Roger Henry, David Johnson, all board members; Heather Drain, representing the staff; Richard Drake, representing the Video Independent Producers Association (VIPA); and Katherine Shurlds, representing the general public.

Shelley's experience includes serving for five years as executive director of Just Communities of Northwest Arkansas. She left in 2007 after adopting her daughter from Vietnam.

Since that time, she has continued to consult for Just Communities of Arkansas, out of Little Rock. She directed Just Communities' youth program, Ourtown for Teens, for the past two summers, in addition to teaching diversity awareness for the organization.

In addition, Shelley served as community outreach coordinator for CAT in 1998. She left to manage the Campaign for Human Dignity that year.

"My experience has been solely that of community organizing, directing nonprofits and working to make an important organizational mission a successful reality for the people it serves," Shelley said in her letter to the search committee. She added that she felt her qualifications and experience "are a good match for the unique needs of CAT at this juncture in its notable history as a vital part of the Fayetteville landscape."

Sparrow said, "We chose Ms. Shelley because she proved that she was qualified and ready to do the job of executive director. We needed someone with a working knowledge of a nonprofit organization, someone who can help increase awareness of the station and who has a record of meeting challenges."  
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