

Public/Private Ventures

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Public/Private Ventures Appoints New President

Philadelphia, PA— Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), a national nonprofit organization that works to improve the effectiveness of social programs and policies, today announced the appointment of Nadya K. Shmavonian as its next president.

Ms. Shmavonian brings extensive experience to the role, having served in executive positions with the Rockefeller Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts and as a consultant focused on strategic planning and evaluation, leadership and organizational development for a wide variety of foundations and nonprofit organizations. “P/PV’s board is very excited to have Nadya joining the organization and leading us into our next decade of work,” says Matthew T. McGuire, the chair of P/PV’s board of directors. “She is sure to build on the many successes we have had to date, producing innovative, high-quality research on some of our country’s most challenging socio-economic issues, and influencing policy at local and national levels. Simply put, we are delighted to have someone of her caliber leading our team.”

“I am thrilled to be joining P/PV at this moment when there is so much interest in—and dialogue about—evidence-based social programs,” says Ms. Shmavonian. “I know, from almost 25 years in and around philanthropy and the nonprofit sector, how unique and important P/PV’s work is. P/PV’s history of excellence in providing rigorous, independent evaluation services, combined with its rich understanding of how programs operate gained through many years of conducting demonstration projects and replication efforts, sheds a rare perspective on the questions of ‘what works? what doesn’t? and why?’ This positions P/PV as a vital partner to social programs, policymakers and foundations in our collective effort to improve the lives of disadvantaged people.”

Ms. Shmavonian has provided strategic consulting to many private foundations and to a broad array of local, national and international nonprofit organizations. She most recently served as vice president for strategy at the Rockefeller Foundation, where she helped oversee a dramatic reframing of the foundation’s programmatic and operating approach, readying Rockefeller to meet new challenges of the 21st century. Ms. Shmavonian also spent 12 years at The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she worked as executive vice president, following several years as director of administration and as a program officer in health and human services. She currently serves on the boards of the Surdna Foundation and the Center for Effective Philanthropy, and is a member of the advisory boards of the National Philanthropic Trust and The Center for Refugee and Disaster Response in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and an M.B.A. in health care management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Shmavonian's formal tenure will begin on January 1, 2010; however she will be engaged with P/PV on a part-time basis starting immediately, as she conducts a strategic assessment of the organization. Ms. Shmavonian succeeds Fred Davie, who stepped down as P/PV's president in April. Geri Summerville has served as acting president and will continue in this role through the end of the year. "Geri has been an excellent steward of P/PV's ship," says Mr. McGuire. "We deeply appreciate her leadership during this time and look forward to her continuing contributions to P/PV's work as we enter this new and powerful phase in our organization's life."

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For 30 years, P/PV has been a national leader in creating and strengthening programs that improve lives in low-income communities. We do this in three ways:

- Innovation: We work with leaders in the field to identify promising existing programs or develop new ones;
- Research: We rigorously evaluate these programs to determine what is effective and what is not; and
- Action: We reproduce proven programs in new locations, provide technical assistance where needed and inform policymakers and practitioners about what works.

Our staff is composed of research, policy and program experts who specialize in such areas as youth development, employment, prisoner reentry, juvenile justice, education and public health.

P/PV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with offices in Philadelphia, New York City and Oakland. For more information, please visit www.ppv.org.