



JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ST. PAUL NAMES ROBERT S. JACOBS CEO

The Jewish Federation of Greater St. Paul has named Robert S. (Rob) Jacobs chief executive officer, effective July 31, 2017. He will succeed Eli Skora who is retiring after 17 years of service as Federation executive director.

Rob comes to St. Paul with a deep background of experience in the Jewish community. Most recently, he was based in Seattle as the northwestern regional director of StandWithUs, an educational and advocacy organization for Israel. As the first regional director for the Pacific Northwest, he built a successful self-funded operation and dramatically increased financial support. Previously, Rob was the regional director for the Anti-Defamation League in the Pacific Northwest. During his tenure, he designed and implemented a strategic plan to increase community engagement and financial support.



Federation's national search was conducted by a committee of lay leaders and chaired by Susan Minsberg, Federation immediate past president. "We are extremely excited to welcome Rob Jacobs as our new CEO," said Minsberg. "He brings the right mix of skills, experience and entrepreneurial spirit to lead the St. Paul Jewish community into the future." The Federation Board of Directors unanimously approved Jacobs' appointment.

Prior to his career in Jewish service, Rob held a number of leadership positions including head of the Intellectual Property Portfolio at Amazon.com in Seattle. He also served in Washington, D.C., working as legislative director for Sen. Barbara Mikulski, counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation for then chairman Sen. Bob Packwood, and for Rep. Leon Panetta as a U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee counsel.

Rob holds an MBA from Columbia University with an emphasis in non-profit management, marketing and entrepreneurship. He has a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School, and he received a BS/BA from Brown University with an independent major in paleoanthropology.

"We sought a candidate who has a vision for how Federation can be relevant and innovative in order to address the challenges and opportunities our community faces," said Steve Brand, Federation president. "Rob's track record is one of bringing diverse groups together for the common good and dramatically increasing community engagement, involvement, and financial support for the organizations he has led."

Rob's wife Elizabeth, daughter Hannah and son Sammy will join him in St. Paul. Their daughter Sophie attends Western Washington University.

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